GENUINE

# MEMOIRS

OF

# JANE ELIZABETH MOORE.

Late of Bermondſey, in the County of Surry.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF:

CONTAINING

The ſingular Adventures of Herſelf and Family.

Her Sentimental Journey through Great Britain; ſpecifying the various Manufactures carried on at each Town.

A comprehenſive Treatiſe on the Trade, Manufactures, Navigation, Laws and Police of this Kingdom, and the neceſſity of a Country Hoſpital.

To which is prefixed

A POETIC INDEX.

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*" Let envy howl, while heav'ns whole chorus ſings,*
*" And bark at honor not confer'd by kings;*
*" Let flattery ſick'ning ſee the incenſe riſe,*
*" Sweet to the world, and grateful to the ſkies;*
*" Truth guards the Poet, ſanctifies the line,*
*" And makes immortal verſe as mean as mine.*

POPE's *Satires.*

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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# INTRODUCTION.

*TO apologize any farther to the Public for what I have pledged myself to deliver to the best of my abilities, would savour too much of tautology, to be admitted as a palliative, where error's may be conspicuous, that some will appear, I hope as I boast not of infallibility may be admitted, and as I may from some be chargable with presumption (as a female) I expect but little lenity; but on the other hand, as I do not mean to exceed the experimental observations my situation in life has presented me with; I trust that in this copious task, which is equally meant for the general good, I shall meet with that sanction from the community at large, in theory, which I have great reason to acknowledge my obligations for, while I was in the practical part; and should I*

them in one volume, after having in the courſe of two, occaſionally introduced an intimation of the various occurrences in both during my exiſtence almoſt from infancy, and having in many abſtruſe matters at different periods, had my opinion preferred; I have, from a promiſe I made long ſince to ſome of my friends, collected the heads of every particular, as far as I can find it ſerviceable to communicate through this channel, the firſt of which being the extenſive ſcope of agriculture; I ſhall declare that from the obſervations I have, in the courſe of the journies I have remarked, thought much improvement might be made by appropriating the waſte lands to a variety of purpoſes; which would firſt be by growing a quantity of corn ſufficient to ſupply our continental

nental neighbours, as it would not only employ a number of veſſels of moderate burden, but bring much ſpecie into the hands of the merchants, that being an article for which no barter is accepted but from choice; and I have known by a houſe in the mercantile line in Spain, eight thouſand pounds ſterling advanced on cargoes of corn before the bulk has been broke. This as far as it goes, ſhould be a leading comment in my idea, both to the legiſlature and to others who have large poſſeſſions, and who from a miſapprehenſion, or to ſave trouble, let out a variety of farms to one tenant, which prevents firſt the eſtabliſhment of young people, who are awed from the idea of a marriage ſtate by the improbability of ſupporting a family on their manual labour only, and by that means

indiſcretions take place, which bring heavy expences on every pariſh, as is well known to every perſon who has either tranſacted or been privy to parochial buſineſs in the country. This is a matter which need not be compulſory in the diſtribution of land, as nothing is wanting to eſtabliſh ſuch a mode but a proper application, which by deſcription to every gentleman of reaſon and moral ſentiment, it will eaſily be diſcovered what is right, as where large families preſent themſelves, which may in a few years branch out to populate the different diviſions of an eſtate, it will anſwer the purpoſe this is intended to promote; but otherwiſe much inconvenience muſt be experienced, as ingenuity (which may equally be ſhewn in working land as in other caſes) meets a diſappointment,

ment, which muſt under ſuch circumſtances as the want of latitude, be buried in oblivion; if the legiſlature in the diſpoſal of crown lands, would attend to ſomething ſimilar in the diviſion of them, it muſt be of infinite ſervice, as each perſon who travels with obſervation through the counties of Stafford and Cheſhire will ſoon perceive from the ſmall ſpots of land on the road ſides, which are there cultivated, that nothing prevents the induſtry of thoſe valuable people, but the want of more ground to work upon.

The main point to diſcuſs and to recommend to each perſons attention, in the appropriation of land to different purpoſes that is not now incloſed, is to guard againſt the depredations made on the growth of ſheep, ſuch I mean as produce fine wool, as

from that neglect a loſs is ſuſtained to this country which few are appriſed of but thoſe, who have in ſome ſhape or other been ſufferers thereby, as the breaking up of land in moraſs grounds, and raiſing what is called cole-ſeed, which feed ſheep in winter in lieu of turneps, and has for ſome years been a ſubſtitute for that uſeful root, has introduced ſuch amazing quantities of coarſe rank wool into this kingdom, as with the addition of the American war, has reduced that once valuable article from ſeven pounds five ſhillings per pack (in the courſe of five years) to forty ſhillings; this muſt ſtill have been the caſe, if the farmers on the ſea coaſt had not met a more alluring temptation, by ſelling their ſheep to the French agents, who give an advanced price on the ſpot, which muſt

muſt be more convenient than ſending them to our markets, and owing to which there is at this time an artificial ſcarcity which admits of a ſmall advance, but that can be only temporary, as when they have ſatisfied their want, (or ſhould the legiſlative power interfere) the produce will again overrun the conſumption. Pity it is that a mode cannot be adopted to work up the wool on the ground it grows, and by that means ſupply our ſubtle neighbours with ready wrought articles, which might circulate much more property among ourſelves, by employing many thouſands of the laborious poor, who could from an augmentation of their labour be enabled to cloath themſelves and families much better, and would create ſuch an additional conſumption among ourſelves of ſeveral

manufactures, that the loſs of other connections would not then be ſo ſenſibly felt by the oſtenſible people of this country, and muſt by the tenants being enabled to pay their rents more liberally, yield a much better ſecurity to the land-owner.

Much of the light ſandy ground in the wilds of Surrey and other places where the chalk downs ſo productive of fine wool and likewiſe fine ſkins are wanting might yield by cultivation very good turneps, which being much the moſt wholſome and beſt food for ſheep, (not ſubjecting them to the rot like rank food) would be of infinite ſervice to this country, and it is well known that the growth of carrots has ſucceeded beyond all expectation; this I ſpeak from the knowledge I obtained by our having a ſituation more than twenty

twenty years on the very ſpot I have pointed out, and as that land might be had at low rents, it might be of great utility, as the high rents land has of late years been at, is very prejudicial, from firſt advancing the price of proviſions, which next cauſes the manufacturers to advance their wages, and that being an additional diſcount on goods of different ſtaples, as muſt, by our being the moſt exhorbitant in our demands, give foreigners a much ſuperior advantage over us in a double capacity, firſt by ſelling their articles cheaper (having a preference) and next by making their returns more ſpeedily, which will reſerve a much larger profit to themſelves, as a quick return ('tis well known) with a light profit, yields a much better emolument than a ſluggiſh return, though

apparently more weighty. The growth of fine wool in this country cannot be too much attended to, as the inconveniencies which ariſe from ſuch neglect are innumerable, firſt by enabling the Spaniards to fix their own terms on that article, which might with attention be ſupplanted by our own growth in ſome meaſure, by providing proper food; the loſs to government is conſiderable by the coarſe ſkins being introduced, as being of a more ſpungy nature, and do not by any means anſwer the purpoſe of thoſe which are more cloſe and ſolid, nor do they yield by much the weight on which the duty is levied, nor can the manufacturers taking the trade on average, (except in great ſcarcity) make a profit, I mean in the branches which uſually take off the moſt, ſuch as oil, leather and

and parchment ſufficient to maintain, in a moderate manner himſelf and family; the depredations made by the introduction of cottons never could have operated ſo forcibly on that eſtabliſhed manufactory, could there have been a proper ſupply of fine ſheep, many of which being brought from the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, from turnep and carrot feed, produce much the fineſt meat and beſt ſkins of any that are introduced; though there is a ſort of hair in the wool, which if wrought up by itſelf is in ſome meaſure prejudicial, but when mixed with other productions makes the beſt ſtaple; commons and downs producing much better food for the ſupport of the broad cloth trade than incloſed land, except ſuch ſolid meats as have before been deſcribed.

Under-

Underwood ought to become an object of notice to the land-holders, and it might be more advantageous where much grows to ſupply the poor with firing at a joint expence of the pariſh, than ſuffer the depredations which are daily made on copſe wood and timber in moſt places where nature has not furniſhed turf-peat or ſome other ſubſtitute.

Chaces and foreſts next take my attention, and are found very beneficial to the farmers and poor, ſo far as grazing can be admitted, but reſpecting the timber are very hurtful, the trees which ſtand on them much damaging the ground by ſuction not being regularly attended to, and taken down when in prime, are permited to go to decay, when on leave being given, (or taken) by the poor in the neighbourhood, for breaking off

off the dead limbs for firing, which certainly is well intended, depredations are made out of courſe on the growing trees, both in foreſts and hedge-rows, and being broke at improper ſeaſons, ſuffers the juices to be exhauſted and by that means ſtems the growth of that, which would otherwiſe attain the dimenſions of timber fit for the uſe of the navy. The mode lately adapted in Richmond Park, was it generally eſtabliſhed, of taking down a certain number of trees annually, would be found both uſeful and advantageous, and I think be highly commendable in thoſe to promote, whoſe province it is to inſpect what might, if properly attended to, be a moſt invaluable treaſure. I do not mean by any obſervations I here make to abridge the poor of any privilege allotted by their

ſuperiors

ſuperiors; but am well convinced that was ſuch ground cleared as is now incumbered with dead wood, it would promote induſtry, whereas it now only imbibes a propenſity to thieving, as no arguments can prevail where ignorance preſides, and for the emolument of a few pence received for faggots in the courſe of a day, with great labour and fatigue, the more eſſential care of their families is neglected, and the more beneficial part of induſtry cancelled.

I hold it far otherwiſe reſpecting common land, as was there not latitude for the induſtrious peaſant to enlarge his income by keeping a cow, and his wife by training up poultry, butter as a neceſſary, eggs and the feathered flock as luxuries, muſt both be very ſcarce in the London markets, till the ſmall farms are by

due conſideration again let to ſuch people, who inſtead of conſuming extra quantities of the delicacies of life, might ſpare a quota for the wealthy citizens and others of the metropolis, which as the head, is far too much enlarged for the body of this trading ſpot, where failing in needful encouragement over the different counties, the efforts are here made to obtain that ſuccour which nature requires, and which if it cannot be earned by labour, is ſought for in every department where vice preſides, and where the harmleſs countryman, firſt initiated by hunger into a banditti of pickpockets, ſoon from a habit of vice becomes the moſt deſperate bravado! and inſtead of a holiday ſilk handkerchief round his neck, diſgraces the temporary gallows before Newgate with a halter in its ſtead.

## CHAP. II.

### ON FISHERIES.

THE fiſheries of this country if duly attended to, muſt render an immenſe ſtore of wealth both to government, and the community at large, as the demand for coarſe oils on the continent, is not to be credited but by thoſe, who have been concerned in ſome part of that trade, or where the article is in ſome way or other conſumed; whether from the above, or ſome hidden cauſe, I am not able to ſay, but the Newfoundland merchants continue ſtill (though peace has exiſted

iſted two years) to keep up the price of that uſeful article, to the leather and other manufacturers full fifty per cent. above the ſtandard it was in the year 1775, and as that was fifty above what had, I am credibly informed been given (previous to my time) it appears to be cent. per cent. dearer than it formerly was. It will be ſaid this remains to be accounted for, but in what manner is yet in embryo; to ſay it is from an increaſe of trade, is an argument that cannot hold good, in this date of time; and I truſt that we ſuffer no diminution of our extenſive right on thoſe banks, government having taken too great precaution in that reſpect, to admit of a doubt. The prohibition of American oil, (or at leaſt the heavy duty which almoſt eſtabliſhes it as ſuch)

is

is the only palpable conſtruction I can put on it; as I am certain from my own obſervation, that there is (in the leather branch only) a diminiſhed conſumption, of one hundred tons annually of the above article, from the ſubſtitution of other materials in the cloathing branch, which has induced the manufacturers to convert the ſkins to other purpoſes, which do not require oil to prepare them. Some perſons have ſaid, ſpeculation by a few opulent people, ſupport the price at the preſent exorbitant height; if ſo, from the freedom enjoyed, wherein one trader may rejoice to hurt another, nothing can be done, but by government purſuing the plan they ſeem at preſent to adopt; of eſtabliſhing fiſheries on the coaſt of North Britain, where much coarſe oil may be

be obtained, which being ſubſtiſtuted for ordinary uſes, might retain a much larger quantity of liver oil to the purpoſe for which it is beſt appropriated. But I am informed there has been diſcoverd off the North coaſt of Ireland, a cod bank, would it not in that caſe be prudent, either for government, or ſome ſelect companies, to enter into ſo advantageous a purſuit as is by nature pointed out; as that would in a great meaſure prevent the evils I have above noticed, as the advantage muſt be ſenſibly felt by all the manufacturers, who conſume that valuable article, as at preſent enhances the prices of ſome particular goods in the leather branch, ſo far as to enable the French and others on the continent, to underſell conſiderably; the exporter of ſhoes and other various things

things in which leather is prepared with oil.

This is a matter which might be extended much farther reſpecting the ſupply of fiſh as an article of proviſion, being, what moſt people eſteem as an agreeable variety, and as light of digeſtion, is proper food for thoſe who uſe but little exerciſe; and if credit may be given to report, the emolument to the Dutch from the fiſheries on our coaſt, muſt be equally worthy the attention of our legiſlature, as thoſe they are now about to eſtabliſh: in a political ſenſe it muſt likewiſe prove of the utmoſt uſe, as it would employ many hundreds of unfortunate people who by the decline of ſome of our principal manufactories, and the diſcharging ſuch numbers of ſailors and ſoldiers, on the return of peace muſt be deprived

prived of the means of ſubſiſtence; and nothing can certainly eſtabliſh the credit of a country, equal to the promotion of induſtry among thoſe of every deſcription, who are not provided for by paternal inheritance.

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## CHAP. III.

### ON MINING.

THERE being but narrow limits for diſcuſſion on this matter, which nature has confined to ſpecific ſpots in the terraqueous globe; and ſuppoſing there is now but little improvement to be made, when

when the bleaching or purifying copper to a ſilver colour, has been lately exhibited, this reduction is ſeverely felt by the miners in the county of Cornwall, and other places where that metal originates; but as it muſt promote the demand of it to other countries, every well-wiſher to this nation will gladly receive ſuch information.

That tin muſt have been much lower than at preſent muſt be natually concluded, ſince the uſe of pewter has been almoſt aboliſhed, but for the provident meaſures adopted by the Corniſh gentlemen, of eſtabliſhing a bank, where the miners of ſmall property depoſite their tin as ſecurity, and obtain thereon a temporary loan, for ſupplying the wants that muſt ariſe for ſatisfying the labourers, and other occaſional expences;

pences; by this prudent method no man's property is diminiſhed by the ſpeculations of rapacious people, to pervade the earnings of the induſtrious; as they can thus wait the demand of the market, either for home or foreign conſumption, the latter of which is diminiſhed to this country, by the Dutch having for ſome years imported tin from Malacca in the Eaſt Indies and the Spaniards from New Spain, which riſes with their ſilver; but with our tin there is not ſo ample a produce. Sometimes gold is diſcovered in the rivers and rivulets which receives the water that iſſues from the copper mines, which implies that metal is impregnated by nature: but ſuppoſe not plentiful enough to ſeek after, as it would in that caſe be purſued. I wiſh to obſerve, that thoſe concerned in tin

mines have a ſort of government in that particular among themſelves, under what are called Stannary Laws, and have a priſon for debtors ſeparate.

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## CHAP IV.

### ON MECHANISM AND INGENUITY IN GENERAL.

THE progreſs of the mechanical arts, within the laſt few years in this country, is too well known to be ſubjected much to the notice of my weak ſpeculations; yet as I have promiſed to deliver my ſentiments without reſerve, I can but

but unite my every effort to ſerve the country I was born in, as it muſt give me pleaſure, and at the ſame time, I confeſs, that where any improvement can be eſtabliſhed to reduce to a certainty the price of any article, to make its way to foreign markets, it muſt be productive of great good to the community at large; but, as under ſuch circumſtances, individuals muſt greatly ſuffer, it ſhould be the conſideration of every perſon of ingenuity, (on the ſyſtem of univerſal charity I mean) on the introduction of any machine ſo conſtructed as to bear the labour of the poor, at the ſame time to recommend a method of promoting induſtry on ſome other plan; as it is known, that for want of that caution many ſchemes apparently of ſingular uſe have been totally abo-

liſhed; and the machines deſtroyed by the numerous hands, who drove to deſperation on ſo melancholy a proſpect as the annihilation of the regular proceſs they have been led to purſue for their ſubſiſtence, by that means the perſons who poſſeſſed the art, would themſelves enjoy more quiet, and not be obligated to live in a ſtate of defence by planting cannon round their premiſes, from an apprehenſion of being daily moleſted, by the ſtarving ſufferers around them; meaning the cotton-mills in Nottinghamſhire.

That nails can be caſt inſtead of being wrought by hand is a truth, and that a machine on an intire new conſtruction, to work hemp into ropes (by the aid of two women, where to a like quantity twenty men muſt be employed by hand) has been tried

tried ſucceſsfully; that timber has been ſawed with a water-mill, was fatally experienced by the late Mr. Dingley, when the poor, ſo far oppoſed by the operation, that his not taking the caution I have here recommended, ſunk his fortune to little purpoſe.

Could a ſcheme be projected for ſawing the wood made into band-boxes now imported from Holland it might be very ſervicable in employing our poor, and when it is conſidered that deals come already ſawed into this country, it muſt lead ſpeculative people to an idea of wiſhing the mills had been continued, as the poor of theſe northern kingdoms are receiving money for that labour our own are wanting. Ingenuity, ſo far as the introduction of intire new arts, muſt be regu-

larly ſerviceable, and merit every encouragement; additional hands muſt then be wanting; but to abridge thoſe who have already been ſupporting great numbers of induſtrious poor, is hardly to be recommended, after the diſappointments this country has met with from the late war, when, wanting the uſual mart for goods, there cannot be allotted to this nation that demand there has uſually been, and for which reaſon much application is wanting in behalf of the laborious poor of this country; as ſhould the preſent dearth of employ continue, I fear much evil muſt enſue, and from the ſhort remittances from America, the merchants who trade to that quarter of the world, are already (as the Gazette has teſtified) grown diffident of their connexions from fatal experience

rience, and as thoſe whoſe property was there inveſted, are obligated to purſue it, by going themſelves to that part of the world, (which to ſome muſt be a moſt diſagreeable taſk) when they muſt leave their buſineſs and deareſt connexions, to obtain that property which they ought here legally to enjoy. However I may be ſubjected to the cenſure or approbation of the world in general for the obſervations I am now making, I hope the philanthropic ſpirit, which has ſo much at all times been ſingularly diſplayed, will wreſt from me any blame, by preſuming to recommend it to the notice of the legiſlature, to enter into commercial treaties with thoſe powers, who will aſſiſt in receiving ſuch of our manufactured goods from us, as will by returning the now diſappointed

poor to their labour, prevent their names being inſerted in the priſon kalendars; as I am ſorry to ſee at the time of writing this, that there are in the county of Glouceſter (once a flouriſhing ſhire in the cloathing branch) one hundred and twelve priſoners to be tried on the crown ſide for capital offences.

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## CHAP. V.

### ON INLAND NAVIGATION.

AS nothing can promote the trade of this country ſo much as an eaſy and cheap intercourſe to the interior parts, where labour being low the

the eſtabliſhment of various manufactories might be made convenient by coals and ore being conveyed by canal navigation, (which is well teſtified both at Mancheſter and Birmingham) and might by the ſame means take likewiſe manure of chalk or marle, where the nature of the ſoil requires it, which would tend to the exportation of corn, (before obſerved, and inſtead of diſtreſſing the poor, which ſome may point out in error) muſt greatly aſſiſt them, by promoting induſtry, not only in making the canals, but from the concomitant effects which muſt ſucceed. The number of horſes which muſt be ſaved by ſuch undertakings is a conſideration which ought moſt powerfully to weigh in this particular; as each of theſe fine animals are, on the nigheſt com-

putation ſuppoſed to conſume the produce of as much land as would maintain four perſons on an average, and to the additional uſe of them within the laſt thirty years, has been juſtly attributed the advance on various articles conſtituted as neceſſaries of life. The eſtabliſhment of county workhouſes, which has been long in agitation, and much wiſhed, might be aided by this introduction, as hemp or other articles in manufactories, for the employ of thoſe who are able by being conveyed at a more eaſy rate, would much relieve the pariſhoners of the burden they at preſent bear; and would enable the overſeers to provide more amply for thoſe once uſeful people who certainly after having exhauſted their ſtrength by manual labour in ſupport of their families, deſerve every at-

attention from thoſe, whom law or cuſtom has appointed their temporary guardians; in this hoſpitable land, and which I hope will be equally the ſtudy of all concerned in ſo arduous a taſk, which in the event muſt, agreeable to the operations of their feelings, either cenſure or approve their own conduct in the moſt eſſential and trying moment of their exiſtence.

After pointing out as far as I am capable, the advantage which (agreeable to the experience I have had) muſt ariſe from the extenſive plan of inland navigation; I would, if poſſible cancel thoſe prejudices which may be, and have occaſionally been made againſt it, and can originate only from an erroneous application, or at leaſt from a wrong mode of proceeding, in the very

tranſacting this conſequential buſineſs, and where prejudice takes place it is not eaſily eradicated: the overflowing the land where navigation has been carried through, is a natural reaſon for arguing againſt it, but ought not in ſound reaſon to obviate the probability of future ſucceſs. A ſkilful engineer will eaſily conſult the level of the country, and how far a cut may be impeded by rocks or quickſands, as both may be hurtful, if not duly attended to in the progreſs; I would not wiſh to recommend the uſe of locks, except where mills urge the neceſſity, which ſubject the country more to floods than any thing elſe, and I well know by experience, are likewiſe attended with perpetual expence it may be ſaid it cannot be avoided; but that is merely a miſtaken notion, and ariſes from not adopting a proper depth

and

and parallel in the execution, as by breaking the current with turnings and windings on ſhoal ground, the ſtream loſes that force, it would from a due obſervation of the above, retain, and from which ſeveral uſeful advantages muſt accrue, as from ſinking the bed of the river ſufficiently to keep the water one foot below the ſurface, the cankerous yellow foul liquor which ouzes from the earth into rivulets or ditches, which if confined, conſequently either ſtems vegetation, or cauſes a very coarſe production of herbage, will by the current be carried off into the large rivers, which act as drains to the country, and inſtead of overflowing, will comſtantly purify the ſoil through which they paſs, were the main rivers, which empty themſelves into the ſea, more duly attended

tended to in their paſſage much good would enſue, and no where more than in the Thames, where to the diſgrace of thoſe to whoſe care that fine river is entruſted is to be daily experienced by numbers (excluſive of the detriment ſuſtained by trade) whoſe occupation is on the water, frequent impediments, ſhameful to deſcribe in low water, ſhew themſelves, where if in a crippled boat much force is required, the paſſenger may be left on the ſand bank, which ſo much obſtructs the paſſage near London-bridge, and which, was it removed and appropriated to the various uſes to which it might be aſſigned, would not only add much to the beauty of that noble river, but likewiſe prove a moſt ſerviceable drain to all the adjacent land; and by carrying ſome of the gravel up

the

the country in barges, the roads might be kept in much better order, and not diſgraced by the large pits which are ſo near the ſides, as to make it dangerous for foot paſſengers on dark evenings, and at the ſame time has a diſagreeable appearance; where, in view of the pleaſant villa's which meet the eye of the traveller, within twenty or thirty miles of the metropolis, it is to be obſerved, that the animal ſubſtance which abounds in river-ſand and gravel, being of a very glutinous nature, operates very powerfully in binding together the particles, and makes the road more firm and laſting than any other materials; this I can prove from experience, as we found it much the beſt method we could adopt, when we lived where the ſurface, which conſiſted

of

of a rich black mould, was open and ſpungy, and where no other cover would admit of the wear occaſioned by a ſucceſſion of carts and waggons going over it.

Should, on diſcuſſion any other advantage, or the contrary appear, then ſuch as are here noticed, I acknowledge myſelf open to conviction, and do not wiſh to enter upon any matter that has not, either from experience or peculiar obſervation, ſtruck me rather forcibly; but having on one ſpot enjoyed the convenience of inland navigation, and been made ſenſible of its utility by the want of it in another, I am urged in behalf of the whole, to recommend what I think moſt beneficial to the trade, manufactures and commercial intereſt of this country in general; and I doubt not but on mature conſideration, many of the

the opulent people, near trading towns from the idea of univerſal ſervices, might be tempted to engage in either deepening ſuch rivulets as are already formed by nature, or making freſh cuts to unite the intereſt of the moſt populous towns, which offer for the encouragement needful to be held out for the introduction of our ſtaple and other articles, to foreign markets; where if generoſity, accompanies the inſtruction given to the traders in general of this kingdom, there cannot remain a doubt of this being yet a flouriſhing ſpot, equal if not ſuperior to any in Europe. The Dutch, however ſordid they may be in their natural habits, have in this particular ſet an example, in which they excel moſt others, and which may not be undeſerving the attention of their neighbours.

Leaſt

Leaſt from a miſtaken idea of the expence attending canal works it may be retarded, I beg leave to obſerve, that from the uſe of modern ploughs which take four horſes abreaſt to break up the ground, and the aſſiſtance of broad-wheeled carts, which are now much in uſe, this buſineſs may be done at near cent. per cent. leſs expence than formerly; and it might bring the beſt of timber from many places where it now decays on the ground; much benefit muſt ariſe from ſuch improvements to government, who, on extraordinary occaſions, pay dear: this plan might be likewiſe ſerviceable in employing the military in times of peace.

CHAP

# CHAP. VI.

## ON BOUNTIES AND PREMIUMS.

WHAT effect bounties have when corn is wanting, has been amply ſpecified in many inſtances, and in the whale fiſhery it has certainly been of infinite ſervice, by enriching all thoſe concerned, as ſince the bounty was firſt handed as an encouragement, the oil brought from that frozen country has advanced from twelve to twenty-four pounds per ton, and till ſome new channel is open, that muſt evidently be the caſe, the quantity being at preſent within the gauge of ſuch, who

who from a ſpeculative turn, bar others the advantage an open trade affords them; this, as I mentioned ſomething ſimilar before, may ſavour of impropriety, but as it is an argument on different grounds I ſhall no more apologize, but turn my thoughts when there ſeems a probability of offering a more novel intimation by giving encouragement to the raiſing of lint and flax on the moraſs grounds which abound in many parts of this country, (not under the denomination of fens) particularly in the north, in Weſtmorland, Cumberland, and Northumberland, and are called peat moſſes, thoſe at preſent ſerve but for the purpoſe of firing, and as they go very deep for it, the ſurface is not greatly diminiſhed, but being of a ſtrong moiſt nature, (from a plant which

which it bears of an affinity to cotton,) I am led to believe much improvement might be made, as many hundred acres lie unemployed and totally uncultivated: ſuch a ſcheme might be the means of raiſing the drooping ſpirits of many hundreds of poor people, who wanting that or ſimilar encouragement, are almoſt burthenſome (though contrary to their own inclination) rather than being uſeful members of ſociety.

Some perſons may argue that too much cultivation of hemp may hurt our connexion with Ruſſia; but as the bulwark of a nation is the number of its inhabitants, nothing can tempt their abode in their own country equal to their finding a comfortable ſubſiſtence on the ſpot they were born, which muſt have a ſtronger influence over their inclinations

tions and diſpoſitions than any perſecution they can be followed with; for I am from experience convinced, that at this inſtant many of our uſeful men in various manufactures, (ſome of whom I ſuccoured many years in the manufactory, I till lately carried on to a great extent), are either ſtarving or making application for relief to their different pariſhes, and to the want of ſome mode to be fixed on for their aſſiſtance, is owing the emigrating ſpirit which now prevails, and which cannot be ſtemmed by any other means than as above recommended, or ſomething ſimilar, which I ſhould gladly ſee enlarged on by a more able pen, than that at this time preſuming to exhibit on ſo enlarged a ſcale as the title page of this book has announced; but as I truſt that I may be allowed to plead

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in the cauſe of humanity, I may avoid the imputation that might otherwiſe be alledged againſt me, and as I do not particularly recollect how far, or whether at all, the Society for arts and manufactures have offered a premium for that particular improvement, if not, and this comes ſufficiently under their notice, to offer due encouragement therein, I ſhall think myſelf particularly happy in being the means of conveying a hint which may tend to promote the welfare of mankind in general, or at leaſt as far as one ſingle article can extend.

CHAP.

# CHAP. VII.

## ON ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE encouragement of the Polite Arts has ever eſtabliſhed the credit of each country where that partiality has been ſhewn: the diſcoveries which have of late years been made of the beauties of antiquity are ample teſtimonies of ſuch truths, as Rome in her moſt flouriſhing ſituation equally preſided as miſtreſs of the refinement of taſte and manners, as of elocution and valour; this was certainly the caſe till luxury (that dire opponent to the virtues) made haſty ſtrides to her deſtruction

deſtruction, which is is well known was ſoon accompliſhed, when effeminancy barred the deſire of glory among the great, and idleneſs (its concomitant), took place of induſtry among thoſe whoſe ambition ſunk in the diſſipation of their predeceſſors. As I profeſs myſelf but little of an hiſtorian, I do not mean to hand an imperfect idea of what I truſt the major part of my readers are more fully informed of; yet am really ſorry to declare that on enquiry, I find the demand for books at the circulating libraries is diminiſhed full eighty per cent. within a few years; this I confeſs is an awful preſage whereſoever the grievance may originate, if from a deficiency in trade 'tis alarming, but if from the diſſipation of youth 'tis awful indeed, as no experience can direct to a

general knowledge without the aſſiſtance of books, which extending from the beginning of time to the preſent moment, and that under the obſervations of the learned of all languages and deſcriptions, (and are now branched out to every ſubject of ſpeculative matter) which muſt inevitably enlarge the ideas in every ſtage of life; I am ſorry to ſay that ſhould ſo eſſential a part of education be omitted, I fear we ſhall in time find the minds of many ſo debilitated from the eſtabliſhed ſyſtem that thoſe rational faculties given to the human underſtanding for the moſt ſolid purpoſes, will too ſoon be ſunk in the oblivion of ignorance and guilt.

Leaſt ſuch ſhould be the depraved manners of the preſent age, the beſt of ſovereigns with his royal conſort, have

have held out every invitation for the youth of both ſexes to enliſt under the banner of induſtry and ingenuity, and which has, I am convinced, been productive of great good; the inſtitution of the Royal Academy, which alike honours each ſex where merit is diſplayed, is a glorious accumulation to genius in this country, as merit is there impartially noticed, no regard being paid to lineage or deſcent. Could the ſame encouragement be given to a ſociety for promoting ſuch ſchemes and inventions in trade and manufactures, the royal ſanction would in that caſe ſo much emulate the minds of thoſe whoſe aſpiring notions urge them in the purſuit of wealth, that I am perſuaded the beſt conſequences would be reaped, where in ſo ample a field, regal generoſity ſhould be

ſown; this might induce ſmall traders inſtead of placing their ſons to the church, law, or the arts, for neither of which they are perhaps duly qualified, and in want of needful ſupport, (which in either is expenſive) to place them in ſuch a line of buſineſs as might much better ſuit their circumſtances and abilities, as an emulation in that caſe would prevail, which at preſent there is no incentive to; however preſumptuous I may be deemed in this declaration, my own experience alone dictates to me the propriety of ſuch an attempt, and I truſt that in this I give no legal umbrage to that laudable ſociety who have ſo many years by premiums, held out a temptation for improvement, but as under the approbation of a royal mandate, it would more keenly edge the ambi-

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tion of the young, and moderate the deſires of the old; it would, I confeſs, give me ſingular pleaſure to ſee a matter of this ſort agitated on a more enlarged plan than is within the ſcope of my abilities. The advantages that would ariſe from adopting ſomething ſimilar to the above is, that youth being on cloſer application in trade than in other occupations, where ſtudy is not peculiarly required, they would have leſs latitude to aſſociate with gamblers and ſharpers, who in every part of the town infeſt places, where the unguarded youth attends from a deſire of ſpending what he then calls a few leiſure or idle hours, thinking from a variety of company to gather information, which too often is ſuch, as failing in ſucceſs at a gaming table, induces him by way of reparation,

either to commit a robbery, or by ſhewing the effects of what is termed a good education, commits a forgery on the perſon or perſons with whoſe confidence he is literally entruſted.

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## CHAP. VIII.

### ON PUBLIC COMPANIES AND CONTRACTS.

PUBLIC Companies, whatever may be alledged to the contrary, are, in my opinion, in many caſes truly ſerviceable, as one reaſon weighs more ſolidly with me than any

any other, though I doubt not but duly conſidered, ſome others may coincide with me in ſentiment, by which, I mean the ſtability of a body of people in compariſon of an individual, whatever the extent of his fortune or connexions may be; the credit of a company being eſtabliſhed with their foreign intercourſe, they are anxious to promote their own intereſt, and as a collective body, pay a more particular regard to the quality of goods exported and imported, than will one or two people, who can more readily change the ſcene from one place to another if one does not ſucceed, I do not mean on that account to ſpecify any particular allegation, but as that is the moſt eſſential matter that can be attended to for the enlargement of our trade; too much heed cannot be

paid in compleating commiſſions, and which I am ſorry to ſay is paſſed over in the extreme of contempt; but whether from a deſire of extra gain in the trader and manufacturer, or from a contracted idea of the merchant in abridging the former of their emolument, I am not able to judge, but one thing is abſolutely certain, that it is no uncommon anſwer to receive on almoſt every article in trade on complaining of the quality, "That it is for exportation," this I believe can readily be teſtified by many, if they chuſe to diſcloſe freely their ſentiments, which as I have promiſed to do, on that account I will not diſguiſe them under any colour or pretence whatever, as I am convinced that neither war or other impediments which may be alledged, in ſome caſes as a bar to our trade on the

the other ſide of the ocean, would prove ſuch laſting diſguſt, was there a remedy pointed out for better eſtabliſhing our credit, in the exportation of goods adequate to the deſires of thoſe who remit their orders, for till then no negociations whatever can be forwarded or entered into, but will fall ſhort in the event, as no motive can induce a perſon to commit the ſame error a ſecond time by purchaſing an inferior article, though at a low price; and that the permanancy of a trade muſt be confirmed by that rectitude of conduct, which in public as in private life, muſt have propriety and juſtice for its baſis.

As a proof of this aſſertion, it was formerly a cuſtom in the populous and manufacturing town and neighbourhood of Leeds, for the ſmall manufacturers to offer their

cloths as ſoon as finiſhed, to the merchants of that place, who eaſily diſcovering their neceſſities, abridged them ſo much in the prices, as to oblige them to curtail the pieces both in quantity and quality, to maintain their families; this procedure brought on the manufacturers a ſtigma from the Portugal and other merchants, to the immenſe loſs of the Yorkſhire clothiers, who afterwards, either from a degree of reſentment, or at leaſt from ſelf-defence, put them on erecting cloth halls, one of which, I believe I noticed to be at the above place, where the work of each manufacturer undergoes a proper inveſtigation as to length, breadth and quality, which prudent ſtep has rendered much credit to theſe who promoted it, as their trade is by ſuch means as much reinſtated

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as circumſtances will admit, ſince the introduction of cottons and callicoes, which till lately contributed nothing to the ſtate but in print, the Hamburgh trade, the linens and lawns of which paying an exorbitant duty, has been too much neglected to expect many of their commands, and in courſe the partiality ſhewn to an article that aſſiſted little, has ſo far brought on this country the reſentment of the Hamburghers, that they no longer give their orders with their uſual rapidity for the ſupply of their German neighbours. This preference being given to an article that paid no duty, to leather, ſilk, and the above named fabrick, all which contributed largely, was in my opinion a juſt plea for the legiſlature levying an eaſy impoſt on cotton goods, as the deficiency which

ariſes from the ſubſtitution of other articles, muſt inevitably raiſe the ſame proportion on a new ſubject, which was moſt likely to yield, in lieu of thoſe which were daily declining, and from the temptations the French met from the Hamburghers in exchange for their linens, they have uſed every poſſible artifice to ſmuggle off both ſheep and wool from our coaſt, which if not ſpeedily put a ſtop to, muſt eventually prove of the utmoſt bad conſequence to trade and the welfare of this country in general, firſt by checking the barter or intercourſe with other countries, and next by ſtarving our own poor by ſuffering raw or unwrought materials to go from this country.

I hope, after diſcuſſing the neceſſity of adhering to the quality of goods

goods to be exported from this country, it may not be thought an infringement for the ſatisfaction of all parties concerned, to recommend the appointment of inſpectors general for the due obſervation and inſpection of the various articles ſent out of this kingdom, whoſe certain emolument ſhould be ſuch as not to ſubject them to partiality, which might be done much to the credit of buyer and ſeller (in my idea) as the merchant, however generous, from a dependance he fixes on thoſe to whom he directs his orders, and not being himſelf a ſpecific judge of each particular, may in ſome inſtances be deceived, and admitting of no excuſe, he incurs from his principles who ſend their commiſſions to him though innocent, a diſagreeable imputation. One thing I have been fatally ſatisfied

fied in, that by a propenſity to retaliation, many goods here imported have been moſt iniquitouſly packed for this market within the laſt few years, which was not uſually the caſe before foreigners could quote our example; this is an obſervation from practice as well as theory.

Reſpecting contracts, at leaſt public ones, enough has already been ſaid without any aid of mine, the conſequences to this country bearing full teſtimony how far they are ſerviceable; but as I have experienced ſimple contract buſineſs many years, I can only obſerve that the trade I was in being entirely conducted in that way, it has fallen much under my notice, and notwithſtanding ſuch a method is very convenient in ſaving time where goods are frequently to be delivered,

I am

I am led to believe, that where the quality depends on the various ſeaſons, ſubject to either extreme heat, much wet, or intenſe cold, was there again adopted the method of purchaſing by hand, it would in that as in many other branches of trade and manufactory reduce things much more to a certainty, as ſix months, the time uſual for entering into ſuch agreements, is ſometimes productive of many ſtrange events both in public and private life; but as circumſtances and ſituations muſt in each perſons idea direct where they wiſh to eſtabliſh or aboliſh any prevalent mode; I ſhall only farther obſerve, that where a juſt confidence can be placed between parties whoſe proſperity depends on each others ſucceſs, that innate principle which ſhould infallibly guide through

through life, ſhould ſo far dictate the ſtability and propriety of their conduct, as ſacredly to adhere to every tranſaction in trade ſufficiently to depend on honour, equally as on ſtamped paper or parchment.

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## CHAP. IX.

### ON PATENTS, HOW FAR USEFUL.

TO decide on the uſe of Patents ſhould take the attention of a more able pen than mine, but as that is a matter which equally with

others comes under my notice, I muſt take it in courſe, and which I acknowledge I ſhall ever think highly beneficial to government, as far as they contribute to the uſe of ſtamps and parchment, both which pay heavy duties; and where they are granted on ſuch inſignificant matters as noſtrums and other incidental articles, the avail of them to the public in general, is not conſequential; but where they are granted on new inventions, and where the landed intereſt, or any particular manufactory will be thereby affected, I wiſh much to recommend it to the notice of the legiſlature to make a more candid enquiry how far it may operate for or againſt the general good; a committee, in matters of ſuch importance of ſelect perſons of experience

perience and abilities, might be of infinite ſervice, as precipitate ſteps have been found very detrimental; the events of which are not yet experienced, but as the time is now approaching to know how far the ſteam engines for grinding corn, for which a patent has not only been granted but renewed, will alarm thoſe who are proprietors of water mills, and very ſoon be ſpecified and as ſuch an undertaking is now in forwardneſs; many will ſay this ſcheme is to prevent monopoly, but in my idea it muſt eſtabliſh it more readily than in any other way, as a body of people with ſo large a capital as ſixty thouſand pounds muſt be able in ſome meaſure, to rule the London market, either to advance or depreſs it at pleaſure; but in this caſe the variety of evils which muſt enſue are

ſo

ſo numerous, that I am fearful they will ſcarcely come within the cognizance of my inſpection, particularly as in this undertaking 'tis I am informed, propoſed to bake the bread with the ſame heat which moves the machine; ſuppoſing then under the ſanction of this patent, (the charter being refuſed) there muſt ſuffer, firſt the land and water holders, next the millwrights, and all other mechanics concerned, the occupiers of mills and mealmen, and what is ſtill more alarming, the induſtrious poor in thoſe various employs, to navigators in general much harm muſt enſue, and of thoſe numerous hands in town employed in the baking branch who muſt thereby ſuffer; no eſtimate can be made in the limits of my deſcription.

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Under ſo weighty a conſideration as this muſt prove, no remedy can be preſcribed but under the ſanction of Parliament, and I flattered myſelf that e'er now they would have been applied to, as the daily decreaſe of mill property is too ſenſibly felt not to urge an inveſtigation, which I truſt will be ſo candidly made, as to bar on all hands the idea of too extenſive monopoly, which both to the public and individuals, has alternately been alike fatal; thoſe who have a perſonal knowledge of me, and are acquainted with my ſituation, may imply this as a partial invective; but as I am at this time totally unconnected with buſineſs, I truſt I ſhall be acquitted on the whole, as not on this alone do I reſt my obſervations, but from a ſincere wiſh to

to promote the intereſt of trade in general, have I enlarged this publication, meeting the ſolicitations of many ſo to do.

Some perhaps may charge me with a deſire of abridging the emoluments of office, but as there are are but few applications of ſo ſerious a nature as to require that attention I here point out, I hope no one but will admit of ſuch enquiries being made, where the bread of thouſands is depending, and as of many parts the whole is compriſed, ſo far I can ſay, that in every ſpeculative matter that has reached my notice, I have, and ever ſhall be a friend to the induſtrious poor of this country, and cannot help introducing one obſervation from our Pariſian neighbours, whoſe ſkill in politics it muſt be allowed

allowed has not loſt ground within the laſt thirty years, viz. that on one of our engineers propoſing to introduce the convenient method of conveying water into the city by pipes; they for ſometime conſidered deliberately on the buſineſs, when on a moſt minute inveſtigation, they perceived by ſuch an improvement, thirty thouſand poor people would be deprived of their ſubſiſtence which they daily obtained from the employ of carrying water to the inhabitants; and on that ground alone, refuſed ſo eligible a plan, which though it might equally have added beauty and convenience to that populous city, was readily given up on ſo liberal an application. As this is a matter which I have repeatedly recommended, I only introduced the above inference, as a corroborating proof

proof of the neceſſity there appears to be for ſuch caution, before too much latitude is given to any perſon or perſons by way of patent. By the information of ſome friends who have lately been in France, I am ſorry to ſay, the very inſtance I have quoted has been perverted by their adopted methods of laying pipes in the city, for a ſupply of water.

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## CHAP. X.

### ON THE PUBLIC FUNDS.

TO enlarge on the miſchiefs, that enſue from the variation of the public funds, might be a ſubject for volumes, but as that is intended for the

a more full inveſtigation; I ſhall only firſt obſerve, that the average intereſt of trade, the ſource of our wealth, depends ultimately on this particular; for that the ſtocks are the pendulum of this country, I believe is generally allowed by ſpeculative people; and on their movements depend, literally ſpeaking, the riſe or fall of the commercial intereſt of this country, which has been fatally experienced ſince the year 1772, when ſtrange as it may appear to ſucceeding ages, the ſyſtem of the ſtock market, was overſet by the machinations of a ſingle individual; and ſince that time the precarious ſtate of the mercantile and trading part of this once flouriſhing ſpot, has exhibited many ſcenes in thoſe tracks, too melancholy to bear recital: the aſtoniſhing

ing decreaſe on property and Eaſt India ſtock, in the courſe of a few months, diminiſhed the annual income of ſo great a number of private individuals, that our manufactories were on that account greatly abridged, as the deficiency muſt fall on the cloathing branch; as in the line of proviſions there could perhaps be no latitude where economy has before been the ruling motive; and, however trivial this may appear at firſt ſight, let it be conſidered, that a diminution of ſix-pence per week only, on the number of five hundred thouſand people will amount to the enormous ſum of ſix hundred and fifty thouſand pounds per ann. Some will argue that the preſent intereſt yielded from the funds, is a direct contraſt to what I have before ſtated, as thoſe who have lately

purchaſed make five per cent. and upwards, and by that means are enabled to ſpend more in private: but in anſwer to that, it will be found that thoſe, who, from various motives and declining trade, muſt ſuffer in the event more poignantly, by the depreciated value of their property in cloſing their trade ſcene, which bearing an equal poiſe to the proportionate eſtimate of the funds, will leave them full one third deficient in ſolid property.

This is by no means the only evil that attends this precarious buſineſs, which at preſent ſhews itſelf: the prejudice to the young adventurer in life, is too awful to paſs unnoticed, as wanting the aſſiſtance which could formerly be obtained, by hiring money on intereſt, the deſire of extending his trade to maintain himſelf

ſelf and family, which from the ſmall profits ariſing at preſent to what was yielded formerly there appears a neceſſity for; in conſequence, he is tempted to enter into connexions of a diſagreeable nature in paper currency, which not uſually being accepted by people of property, brings on a ſucceſſion of evils, which too frequently on one or the other giving way, is the total ruin of one or all the parties concerned. Of ſuch inſtances I have been, (I am ſorry to ſay) too often acquainted, not to wiſh ſome remedy pointed out to prevent future ills of a ſimilar nature; as till ſomething can be done to eſtabliſh a permanency of credit, the conſequence muſt be greatly felt in the moſt eſſential concerns of this country; for the ſtocks being ſo much extended by the amazing quantities

of ſcrip, within the laſt few years, has operated equally as the proportion of the metropolis to the nation at large, the head of both being much too great for the body; for when it is conſidered that the ſpecie of this country is not eſtimated at more than ſixty millions, and that the national debt amounts to much more than four times that ſum, all of which is funded, it will require but little calculation to prove how inadequately ſuch a diſproportion muſt operate againſt the circulation of money in trade. I have heard it argued, that trade like water, will find its level; but let it be obſerved at the ſame time, that like a fluid, it branches out to different channels, and when in a torrent it flows to a diſtant country, which has lately been the caſe; great inconveniences muſt

muſt here ariſe, and till ſome method can be adopted to advance the price of the funds ſufficiently to tempt thoſe who have a flow of ſuperfluous caſh, to advance it occaſionally on good ſecurity, trade in this country never can flouriſh with that rapidity it has done; as not only the riſk to people in a commercial line, but the loſs of time which is of equal value, ſubjects all thoſe who ſeek ſuch temporary relief as I have been ſpecifying, to the moſt diſagreeable diſguſts, particularly where no permanency ſhews itſelf in ſuch tranſactions, which from a continual routine of the ſame chain of intereſts appearing, the validity is ſo far diſputed as to render fatal diſappointments, where a large payment ſtares the holders in the face, which being repeatedly the con-

ſequence where trade is extended, furniſhes the gazette frequently with the names of many reſpectable people, who with the loan of a few hundred pounds, by being kept in conſtant attendance in their occupation, might inſtead of being reduced to the diſagreeable neceſſity of barring their legal creditors of their juſt demands, be enabled to lay up annually a decent ſum to augment the pleaſing idea of a retirement in the autumn of life, or winter of old age; otherwiſe with equal pleaſure, to portion off the promiſing offspring of their early attachments, in the ſacred care of a matrimonial connexion.

But while I am pointing out all thoſe evils already noticed, it may be ſaid I am partial to the dark ſide of the queſtion, or why not adviſe a remedy

remedy for thoſe which appear ſo egregious, as throughout the whole I have wiſhed to recommend induſtry, I think it can hardly be ſaid I have been totally negligent: as the promotion of trade and manufactories, is certainly laying a good foundation for wealth, and ſhould there by that means be brought into this country a ſufficient flow of caſh to bring purchaſers to the funds, it would be a happy preſage indeed; but as that I am afraid is a diſtant hope at preſent, I wiſh, by way of emulation, to recommend a mode of diſcharging the debt of the nation at large, by the provident ſcheme of life annuities, which under certain heads and reſtrictions, I think may be done to much advantage, without prejudice; as the money thus laid out cannot with propriety be

circulated in trade, as ſecurity is juſtly required, and not always to be obtained of people in a commercial line, neither can the funds require it, as not rendering ſufficient intereſt; that from thoſe ſums which are now ſunk in the city chamber, or in pariſh pavement, might the ſtate reap the moſt permanent aſſiſtance, as there does not appear to me the probability of any ſect of people whatever being hurt; ſuch money as is laid out in life annuities, bearing, as I judge a compariſon to a pool of ſtagnated water, which, as it neither ebbs or flows, has no viſible operation whatever, and conſequently cannot be miſſed from the community at large, and the ſalutary effects of its juſt appropriation muſt be felt by diſcharging a part of that debt which now is the oſtenſible

cauſe

cauſe of the murmurings which preſide, reſpecting the taxes to which we are at preſent ſubjected, and which as they would annually decreaſe, would give freſh vigour to our introduction in foreign markets, by an abridgement of expence in every article of life.

I think I have omitted no obſervation of moment in the diſcuſſion I have been making on the intereſting matter I have juſt noticed, if it ſhould be ſo diſcerned, I am ready to attend to any improvement that may be offered on ſo copious a topic, as the welfare of the inhabitants of this populous country depends much on the due regard and attention that is paid to the circulation of the public money, and which may be termed more or leſs agreeable to the ſtability here required; and I truſt that

regard, ſo neceſſary to the encreaſe of wealth, will be paid ſufficiently to the permanency of the funds hereafter, as may tend to promote the welfare of the community, in preference to a few individuals who, though very neceſſary in time of need, give up every conſideration in behalf of the induſtrious honeſt trader, to their own puſillanimous ideas of accumulating ſeven or eight per cent. at the expence, or at leaſt at the riſque of the credit of that part of ſociety, who contribute more freely in general to the wants of the ſtate than the reſt, and luxurious numbers who are ſupported in a great meaſure by the toil and purſuit of thoſe, who procure their ſubſiſtence by every means, which induſtry and care can preſcribe.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XI.

### HOW FAR PLACES OF PUBLIC AMUSEMENT ARE ELIGIBLE TO THE WANTS OF THE STATE.

I AM now entering on a ſubject, reſpecting which various are the opinions which prevail; but as theſe are governed by different habits, perſuaſions and occupations, an equitable deciſion can hardly be made, taking the whole in a general ſenſe. That luxury promotes trade cannot be denied, and that in exceeding the limits of diſcretion, which is too often the caſe, is fatal, and daily experi-

enced; but as in comprehending the word luxury, much obſervation is required, I mean to diſſect it as impartially as it can with propriety be admitted, and to obſerve that I do not conſider the places of amuſement in that light, in their origin; where there are large aſſemblies of people, a line ſhould be drawn to attract at times the mind of man from too much application either to buſineſs or ſtudy, than which nothing is more reaſonable, as without that ſeaſonable relaxation, the mind does not receive that reviſion of the ſenſes which ariſes from different objects; however they may meet the eye, muſt in ſome ſhape or other give latitude to the needful ſenſations which occaſionally enlarge on ſpeculation. Morality itſelf cannot, I am convinced bar this mild ſuppoſition; as muſic

muſic and dancing with the ancients received great ſanction; nor do I throughout the ſcriptures remember to have known it cenſured. How far the depravity of man has corrupted thoſe noble enjoyments, to eſtabliſh them as luxuries, remains with himſelf; that plays were introduced with a view of holding out a mirror to nature, is a too well eſtabliſhed maxim to admit of a doubt, and that they were in high eſtimation where learning and valour prevailed, cannot be denied; but if their tendency is miſapplied from the perverſion of morals, the inſtitution is not blamable, as each perſon who attend thoſe ſpectacles ſhould be enabled to judge how far or not they may adapt it to their own ſituation, and in what particular they can moſt eſſentially benefit thereby; for that reaſon

reaſon alone I could ſeriouſly wiſh thoſe leſſons were not ſo early handed, as they appear in general to be, as till reaſon, by times, has ſcope to pervade the human underſtanding, much cannot be expected, and from being ſatiated too early with repletion; the novelty is not ſufficient to yield to that needful information which might be reaped where attainment is the ruling principle; and to change the ſcene, variety is ſtudied, and often meets with that ſuperficial allurement which only tends to corrupt the morals, and exhauſt that learning which in its primitive ſtate might add the greateſt embelliſhment to fortune and perſonal accompliſhments this world can beſtow.

The miſappropriation of amuſements ought not to cancel the inſti-

tution

turion of them; as the attention of the ſtate, the ſtudy of the philoſopher, the deſk of the merchant or trader, need on this account be neglected; as diſcretion and prudence ſhould always preſide ſufficiently to direct in the diſpoſal of time; nor ſhould an extreme ſordidneſs prevail ſufficiently to bar the moments of recreation or diſtant information, as the ſenſes would in that inſtance loſe their proper effect, and the beauties of the creation in the conſtruction (if I dare call it by that appellation) of man, would be loſt to ſociety. Thoſe who from a vague idea, conſtitute vice under the veil of amuſement, much miſconſtrue the meaning of the word; that from familiarizing too much the gratification of the ſenſes, and at the ſame time exhauſting the fortune, is not an in-

tro-

troduction to vice, I cannot deny; but where that is the event, the heart has been previouſly far too ſuſceptible of vice, will plainly appear; and that gaming, which originates clearly from avarice, is the next ſtep to diſſipation, is too well known, and the operations of one with the other daily teſtify the ſucceeding conſequences.

This may perhaps be held as an inconſiſtent intruſion in the trading line; but as much has been ſaid reſpecting the taxation of luxurious places of public reſort; I could not avoid making ſome little comment thereon, as far as it coincides with my own opinion. And I cannot help differing from many others in my ſentiments reſpecting the taxation of the above places (except maſquerades and gaming-tables) both which

I hold

I hold in the moſt contemptible light, as highly prejudicial to the youth of this metropolis of every deſcription, and I think no tax the legiſlature can impoſe is any way adequate to the impending evils which attend this country from the effects of both; the firſt giving by far too much encouragement to the propenſity of a man diſguiſing his real ſentiments from the world, which he can in that caſe do with impunity; and the ſecond from expoſing the delicacy of the fair, to the improper and groſs obſervations of ſo indiſcriminate a collection of mortals, as attend the ſummons of maſquerade tickets.

That the gaming-table, like the grave, levels all diſtinctions, I believe is readily allowed, and is exemplified by the ſale of paternal eſtates,

tates, which are daily exhibited. And if this, with the aim the legiſlature has long ſince made, will not prevent ſo deteſtable a vice, I truſt that ſome farther meaſures may be purſued to allay, if not totally aboliſh it, as if the refinement of the preſent age does not dictate, it cannot be improper to recommend ſome method to enforce the aboliſhment of ſo heinous a crime; as the convict who makes depredations on one perſon only, frequently pays with his life; while in the mean time the gambler who robs in open day-light, by commiting depredations upon the community in general, not being ſufficiently under cognizance of the law, eſcapes under colour or pretence, according to his ability, or the extent of his caſh. I hope I may in this particular avoid

have

offence, as no perſonality is attempted; but the whole proceeds from a general abhorrence to ſpecific vices, in which though not much of that I have laſt named, has been imputed to my family, yet by others equally flagrant, I find my ſituation in life ſo contraſted as to urge me to remark more poignantly the unfortunate events, to which each perſon is liable who is connected with thoſe, whoſe want of due conſideration leads them from a miſtaken indulgence of the paſſions, to that worſt of all reflections, of being abſorbed in their own guilt to the deſtruction of themſelves and deareſt connexions.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XII.

### ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

NOTHING can give a more perfect idea of the utility of public charities than the exhibition in that line which is annually held out to view in this metropolis, and which muſt raiſe the emulation of each beholder, far exceeding the deſcription of my pen; and I truſt that it is as often productive of new ſubſcriptions. The healthy and cleanly appearance of ſuch a number of children ſupported in cloathing and needful learning, at the expence of the different pariſhes where no compulſion urges,

does

does great honour to the place where ſo laudable an example preſides: but as from the peculiar recommendation of thoſe who generouſly plead in their behalf, ſome have been admitted wholly into the ſchools; it is much to be wiſhed ſo conſiſtent a mode could be more liberally adopted, as theſe who are intended to be ſerviceable members of the community, would be much better enabled ſo to be, by a more peculiar attention being paid to their morals, which can be by no means ſo well regarded when they are at intermediate hours expoſed to the prophaneneſs and idleneſs which conſtantly, to the diſgrace of our rulers, pervades the ſtreets of our city and ſuburbs: this may be deemed dictatorial, but as I ever in proſperity paid my mite to the preſent eſtabliſhment in this behalf; I

think each perſon who duly conſiders the future happineſs of their fellow creatures, (of which thoſe helpleſs innocents form a part) will certainly concur in the full eſtimation, of ingratiating in them that morality of conduct and rectitude of manners ſo eſſential to the political intereſt of the whole, for whom they muſt in due time contribute their ſhare of labour and exertion. A trifling addition to the preſent ſubſcriptions, with admitting of a few vacancies as they fall, till the adequate number to the income for ſuch purpoſe was only reſerved, would very ſoon yield a ſatisfactory proof of the utility of ſo ſerviceable a purſuit, the ſalutary effects of which there is not the leaſt doubt would be rendered enough conſpicuous, to induce numbers both in life

life and at death, to add to ſo uſeful an inſtitution, which would be daily diſplaying its fruits to the generoſity of thoſe who have made ſo candid an application.

I mean to obſerve equally the liberality diſplayed in every part of this opulent place, the numerous places appropriated to the uſe of the poor of all ages and deſcriptions, under the various calamities human nature is ſubjected to, and with what regularity and neatneſs they are conducted, none can be ſtrangers to, who have at any time viſited thoſe uſeful and generous receptacles to our neceſſitous brethren. I flatter myſelf that the benign giver of all good, will aſſiſt every endeavour which diſcovers itſelf in the augmentation of ſuch glorious undertakings, and that notwithſtanding the cloud which has

has for a time ſurrounded or overſhaddowed this æra of our day, yet I hope thoſe beneficent and noble acts will hold out to us an earneſt of future proſperity.

I wiſh much in addition to the above to recommend the much wanting aſſiſtance to conſumptive and aſthmatic people, who being refuſed admittance to the other hoſpitals, and from being obligated to take ſhelter in a workhouſe, die a ſacrifice to the foul air therein contracted; but I mean to enlarge on this matter farther in the twentieth chapter of this volume.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XIII.

### ON TAXATION, WHAT IS MOST ELIGIBLE.

MUCH as may be argued reſpecting finance and taxation, one of which corroborates implicitly with the other; I cannot but expreſs my ſurprize at the uneaſineſs ſhewn on the firſt propoſals for an additional tax, on any thing but the neceſſaries of life, or what comes within the ſame appellation, thoſe bearing particularly hard on the induſtrious poor, who alike contributing from ſhillings their proportion to thoſe whom fortune has favoured with

pounds per week, are truly under ſuch circumſtances to be noticed as objects of pity and compaſſion, no means being pointed to them as a ſubſtitution but what is oppreſſive to the manufacturers, on whoſe abilities and oeconomy depends the intereſt of this country in foreign markets; ſuch inconveniencies being duly noticed, I truſt that on a contraction of the national debt, thoſe will be the obſtacles firſt removed; but at preſent, I am ſorry to ſay, there appears no remedy; the object to our trade I pointed out in a former chapter reſpecting the difference of twenty-ſix ſhillings per annum to each perſon on apparel; I ſhall therefore, as I diſlike tautology, enlarge no farther on that head, but wiſh to recommend, when neceſſity requires, to the notice of the legiſ-

lature

lature ſuch ſubjects as are leaſt liable to partiality, as thereby leſs murmuring will prevail, and on the idea of each (excepting the poor) partaking alike of the burden, there can be little notice taken, and I am inclined to believe, that could a method be yet purſued, more to prevent ſmuggling, new impoſts might very ſoon be avoided; if ſo, the public would be much gratified and trade be on a more equal footing, I hope the commitee have benefited the revenue by their attention already, as I am fully convinced the honeſt trader has a very unequal chance under the circumſtances of ſinking the duties on goods imported. Outlawry ſeems to have but little influence to the callous feelings of thoſe deſperate people who engage in thus defrauding the revenue, per-

haps corporeal puniſhment might have a more laſting effect; but that is not in my province to dictate, though nothing I wiſh to ſee ſo much eſtabliſhed as equality among the traders in this country; as a viſible advantage ſhewing itſelf of one over the other, the enterpriſing ſpirit of genius is much annoyed, and the progreſs of many uſeful diſcoveries impeded.

No method appears to me ſo eligible of ſucceſs, as reducing the very high duties on ſome things levied, ſpirits excepted, the cheapneſs of which is productive of evils few are acquainted with, who have not ſeen the conſequences preceding this day, or thoſe who employ many of the inferior people in manufactories; where tea and geneva being both reduced in price, the effects muſt be dire;

dire; indeed if now the mechanic can be ſupplied with a glaſs of fire, for ſo I muſt call it, for one half-penny, and muſt give three farthings for a pint of ſmall beer, which once was the ſame in value, what the conſequence muſt be to the preſent and ſucceeding generations, it needs not medical ſkill to divine; but ſure I am, that ſhould there not be an alteration in that particular, another climacteric will hand a prepoſterous picture of debilitation to public view, in this now populous ſpot. I really bluſh at my own preſumption in thus arraigning the miſapprehenſion (for miſconduct I cannot call it, well knowing it was otherwiſe intended) of my ſuperiors, but as my experience in the conduct of working people has been exceeded by few, I on that account am tempted to ſee

the conſequences of this event more keenly than thoſe who have trod another path in life, and could any ſcheme be adopted to fully employ the indigent, the number of private ſtills would not be working which now are, as there are few perſons who could they exhibit in a line of reputation, would ſequeſter themſelves from ſociety, and be abridged the benefits thereof, to retire to ſubterraneous caverns, and houſes ſuppoſed to be uninhabited, where they are every hour liable to the depredations of officers or thieves, both having over them equal power and authority from the injuſtice of their cauſe; and could reflection, which is only barred by neceſſity, take place, they would conſider the horrors they are bringing on themſelves and the community, by appropriating that good

good grain, as they prefer wheat for diſtillation, which is intended for the moſt nouriſhing food, to the utter deſtruction of the vital ſyſtem.

I am happy to ſee at the inſtant I am making my obſervations, the improvment made in the revenue liſt, and particularly as it extends to the very aim which has been long pointed out, and I am well convinced that the ſame method purſued, except in the ſingle article I have pointed out, muſt in time render much eſſential ſervice to this country, and I hope from the proſpect now before us, a few years more elapſed, may again raiſe the drooping ſpirits of thoſe, who from a wrong conſtruction of cauſes miſtake events, as no ſtate but muſt be ſupplied with a ſufficiency in ſome ſhape or other, as exigencies ariſe, and can a proper

intercourſe be maintained with other ſtates in ſupport of our trade, I flatter myſelf much may yet be done to make us once more the envy rather than the contempt of our continental neighbours.

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## CHAP XIV.

### ON THE INCREASE OF BUILDINGS, WHETHER USEFUL OR NOT.

AFTER the declaration I have made reſpecting the different proportion of the head to the body of this country, it may appear a con-

contraſt to declare any way in favour of the increaſe of buildings in and about the metropolis, but drawing a line between the intereſt of the public at large and ſelect bodies, may ſolve this myſtery in the aggregate ſum; that the dearneſs of proviſions is in part owing to that cauſe, I believe may be allowed, but in the very tranſaction of that buſineſs when at the height, it muſt be admitted that this country was then in the zenith of its glory; that this was in part owing to the then low intereſt of the public funds is well known; and that the allurements for monied people, to enterprizing young men in the building branch, was in a great meaſure the cauſe of ſo great an increaſe in the uſe of bricks and mortar, and the precipitate demands from thoſe avaricious

ſons of wealth, when government held out a greater temptation, was the cauſe of great numbers entering the walls of our priſons, when had they been left to their own purſuits, they might with labour have wrought a decent maintenance, and not have brought on themſelves and families that deſtruction which muſt await them by being totally dependant on the will of thoſe miſcreant harpies who by deluding the unſkilled with the ſhadow, appropriated to themſelves the ſubſtance.

Without extending the outlines of this city to the prejudice of the community, much employ might be found by improvements, which ſeem very neceſſary to decorate and add convenience to this noble ſpot, many of the old ſtreets being in a moſt ruinous ſtate, which were they put into

into proper order, would employ great numbers of labouring men, who wanting ſuch ſeaſonable relief, meet a much more alarming fate in their ſentence from the city recorder; was money to be obtained as formerly, there remains not a doubt but ſuch ſchemes would be agitated, and in ſome reſpects it will appear highly neceſſary as an aid to the ſtate in caſe (though Heaven avert it) another war ſhould preſent itſelf, as from thoſe people who are initiated to danger in the building line, and accuſtomed to alacrity by the uſe of the ladder, the navy muſt be furniſhed with many uſeful hands, which was well experienced in the late efforts of this country; the Iriſh peaſants from a proſpect of gain, introduced themſelves in numbers to the builders, when that trade, or ſcience,

flouriſhed, which much prevented the internal broils and feuds which have cauſed likewiſe here ſuch uneaſy ſenſations. This I am fully perſuaded, that could the ſame bread have been obtained in this country for thoſe hardy people as uſual, their leaders would not have been urged ſo ſtrenuouſly to ſeek it among themſelves, but the cries of the poor are too piercing to be reſiſted, and till we are again enabled to encourage the ſuperfluous branches, we ſhould be cautious in laying too much manure at the root, leſt thoſe that are left prove over luxuriant.

I have here impartially given my general ſentiments reſpecting the increaſe or aboliſhment of buildings as far as I think it conſiſtent, and ſhould I by this means ſo far awaken a few of the rich of this world to the

the ſenſe of the miſeries of their fellow creatures, as to think of the improvements neceſſary that the poor may be employed, I ſhall eſteem myſelf particularly happy in diſplaying my weak abilities in behalf of my neceſſitous brethren.

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## CHAP. XV.

### ON PUBLIC MARKETS, THEIR USE.

THE eſtabliſhment of public markets was they more adopted, I am led to think would contribute eſſentially to the welfare of trade

trade in general; I mean as to ſtaple articles; it is well announced that the tanners who are an opulent ſet of people, are the leaſt ſubjected to contract bad debts by their expoſing their goods, and as they are liable to the inſpection of proper people there appointed, the goods muſt be marketable, or the owner muſt be rigidly cenſured; by this means, the credit of the trade is well ſupported, and the ready money there brought, enables thoſe concerned to conduct their buſineſs on much more eaſy terms, than where unlimited credit is given, and at the ſame time, bars the neceſſity of purſuing ſuch temporary relief as I before ſtigmatized; each man by ſuch convenient circulation, (and unlimitted by not having previouſly entered into contract) being capable of keeping his payments with-

within the compaſs of his own property, and as the tranſactions of that nature are frequently gone through by factors, whoſe determination is ſacred between buyer and ſeller, there remains but little latitude for litigation; and I have made an obſervation with preciſion, that there are leſs failures in that branch, than in any other I have noticed, and I long wiſhed ſo deſirable a method could have been eſtabliſhed in the purchaſe of ſkins with the wool taken off, as is practiſed in the markets where they are expoſed to ſale immediately from the back of the beaſt.

Reſpecting markets for proviſions, it is much to be lamented ſome are not eſtabliſhed among the new ſtreets and ſquares which have been for ſome years paſt erecting in and near the pariſhes of St. Mary-le-Bone, Hanover

Hanover-ſquare, and the adjoining parts, as great inconvenience muſt attend the inhabitants of that populous part of the town on that account; but ſhould ſuch an addition be made, I wiſh much to recommend the dividing of it into ſelect encloſures, as I mentioned its being laid out in Glaſgow, where meal, meat, poultry, vegetables, and fiſh, each occupy a different ſpace, which not only is attended with much cleanlineſs, but great caution, as the interference of the various dealers do not offend the ear with the coarſe language which ever is heard in a clamorous conteſt among the inferior people, who conſtantly are needful in ſuch places of traffic.

# CHAP. XVI.

## ON ASSURANCE, HOW USEFUL UNDER PROPER RESTRICTIONS.

THIS chapter I expect, if I could not produce an aſſertion of fact, would bring on me the imputation of many, but as I only give my opinion, where authenticity is wanting I truſt I ſhall be able to acquit myſelf.

That ſo provident a method of protecting property, is an ample ſatisfaction, is diſplayed much by the number of people who take the benefit of it, which even with the addition of the preſent tax, is worth each

each perſons notice whoſe property lies in a ſmall or large compaſs, and I wiſh much to ſee ſuch care taken by thoſe who live in the different parts of this kingdom, diſtant from the metropolis, as many are injured by not uſing that needful precaution; but one thing I cannot help obſerving as a hardſhip, viz. that notwithſtanding the depoſit is made one year in advance, yet on the property being veſted in other hands, though on the ſame ſpot, on an accident happening within the year, ſhould by any means no transfer be made, the ſufferer is denied the amount of his aſſurance; this I think a particular hardſhip, conſidering the ſtipend being already in the hands of the office, and in thoſe caſes common law is not able to decide, there perhaps not being a direct

direct precedent: this I ſtate as a fact, where ſuſtaining a loſs by fire in the year 1767, I was in behalf of my huſband an oſtenſible ſufferer, which makes me more ſenſibly affected at the recital, as having paid our year's inſurance for a certain amount ſeparately, a few months after a new partner was taken in and notice given; the policy being at the office having paid for the year complete was argued ſufficiently to make us eaſy, but journies in the country interfering with both partners, the articles were not ſigned, though a regular account was taken of the ſtock in trade, and unfortunately the accident taking place one month within the year, a litigation enſued, and notwithſtanding every fair promiſe till the account was made out, at the time of delivering it, one half of the

the money on the goods, (ſome being for the building,) was refuſed in conſequence of the omiſſion themſelves had made, much altercation at various times enſued, when at laſt it was determined to be ſettled by arbitration, when three eminent merchants of the city being appointed, they admitted of the legality of the whole of our demand, but by the delay that took place in this troubleſome buſineſs, we loſt the intereſt of the money, which was conſiderably more than two thouſand pounds, near eleven months, and three per cent. being then deducted for the uſe of the engines, we were ſufferers of full eight per cent. this happened in a chartered company. 'Tis pity the unfortunate ſufferers under ſuch diſmal cataſtrophes, ſhould after the fatigue attending ſuch con-

fuſed ſcenes, where there appears no fraud, be ſo much in the power of thoſe to whom they pay for ſecurity, and ſhould a ſimilar caſe diſcover itſelf, (which God forbid) I hope ſome notice would be taken to avoid ſuch perplexities in future; as was it frequently to happen in lieu of the increaſe which I ſhould hope to ſee in future, it would increaſe the riſk of the ſubject, and much decreaſe the revenue in that eſſential part of uſeful care.

This as a caſe might have been compriſed in the diſſertation on the laws, but trade being more materially concerned it comes under my cogniſance in theſe obſervations; and as I intend as far as that intereſt is concerned, to give ſimply my own opinion from experience, I rely on the candour of my readers to decide where-

wherein I am right or wrong, as on their cenſure or approbation muſt depend my future encouragement in the literary world.

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## CHAP. XVII.

### ON COINAGE.

THIS muſt bring on me, I ſuppoſe (as a female) much more reflection than any of the preceding pages, eſpecially when government at ſo great an expence took up lately that eſſential buſineſs; but as the ſilver coin of this kingdom is ſtill open

open to notice; I hope e're long it will otherwiſe be attended to as the ſilver being now almoſt without any impreſſion, (but that of time) it gives much latitude to baſe metal caſed over being introduced in circulation, which paſs well till ſome accident or other by a crevice in the outſide diſcovers the deception by ſhewing the inward contents, which are moſtly copper and not of the value of more than one penny including the ſilver. This to theſe, who have plenty is ſcarcely an object, but is much ſo to the labourer on whoſe wages the loſs of a ſhilling is prehaps a tax of twelve and half or fifteen per cent. and being frequently paid in the evenings, the injury is not in time diſcernible, and if application is made the next morning, no redreſs can be obtained. I do

do not mean to enlarge on this ſubject as to notice the copper coin, has been already done as far as circumſtances will admit, and the reduced price of copper, which is now twenty-five per cent. under the former average, enables the people whoſe inclination prompts them to exhibit much greater plenty of counterfeit halfpence, than they could have done had that metal been of more value.

On a freſh coinage taking place, it may be thought proper either to abate in the ſtandard, or to admit of alloy, as the crown and half crown pieces have frequently exceeded the price of ſilver per ounce, and on that account have been ſhipped for exportation, or put into the crucible being more pure, or of extra weight, which has cauſed a great deficiency of

of that circulation, and has been the means of much baſe metal being introduced.

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## CHAP. XVIII.

### ON CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

THIS as the legiſlature has taken up the matter reſpecting the fees of office, muſt in courſe abridge my obſervations on this copious ſubject; but as I think far differently in ſome reſpects to the generality of the world, I ſhall equally diſcloſe my ſentiments as a counterpart to

the preſent operations, ſo far as it concerns the better collecting in the duties, as I cannot help thinking that were the officers better paid to enable them to contend more ably with the inclemency of the ſeaſons, where their attendance is required both night and day, it would anſwer the purpoſe of government much better, as it can hardly be ſuppoſed that a man whoſe appearance muſt in ſome degree be reſpectable, can, after paying incident expences and taxes, which reduces his income to little more than forty pounds per annum, be ſatisfied under ſuch circumſtances; would it not be prudent to augment thoſe ſalaries where ſo much attendance is required, as an additional emolument might enforce more diligence by far than the depriving occaſionally a few officers of their employ,

ploy, which only ſubjects them to the neceſſity of returning to their former ſtate. But the addition of a few pounds to the income of people who have been accuſtomed to a narrow pittance, will cauſe an emulation to gratitude, which would, in my idea, anſwer the purpoſe of government moſt amply.

I am led to think, that had ſuch a mode been adopted, the reſtraint on the ſoap-makers and ſome others, needed not that ſtrictneſs to enforce obedience that is now uſed; I have in the courſe of my connexions and acquaintance heard propoſals to aboliſh the Cuſtom and Exciſe duties throughout; but as I never could find, that according to my own eſtimation of things in general, that partiality could be avoided, I have on that account entered no farther into

the merits of the propoſals, except in anſwering a letter in the Morning Chronicle, which appeared the 27th of January laſt, where the writer held out terms for aboliſhing all taxes and duties whatever, and to levy on the returns of each individual two and a half per cent. indiſcriminately; alike to the trader whoſe capital did not exceed one thouſand pounds, as on the gentleman whoſe rental yielded that ſum clear per annum; and this was to be done weekly, if ſo often, in retail trade, the money ſhould circulate; the impropriety of the matter tempted ſome of my friends to bring the letter to me to give my opinion, which I did to the beſt of my ability; and it appeared in the above paper under the ſignature of a Female Politician, the 24th of March laſt, in which I de-

delivered my ſentiments on the ſubject of taxation as fully as I could, with propriety, in a newſpaper diſcuſſion. And as I have in various obſervations, in the courſe of this volume, enlarged on ſome particulars reſpecting what are ſubjects for taxation, it remains only for me to ſay, that I cannot through any chanel that has yet been offered to my notice, ſee that any better mode can be adopted for ſupplying the exigencies of the ſtate, than an eaſy impoſt on the different articles that do not affect the poor, or impede the exportation of our manufactories. But as I am well informed that much ſmuggling is riſked, owing to the delays at the Cuſtom-houſe, which are attended with great loſs, as the mariners muſt be kept in pay, and may, in ſome meaſure, be the cauſe of diſ-

appointment when going to other markets, for which reaſon I wiſh to recommend to the legiſlature, a method of putting each trader on an equal footing in point of expence, one as the other, giving the induſtrious ſmall one a chance of diſplaying his ingenuity on a footing with thoſe whoſe advanced fortunes may not excite in them ſo great a deſire of introduction to new correſpondents; under which circumſtance many new attempts might be made, the probability of which is now barred by the great trouble and expence attending the exportation of articles of a ſmall amount: ſhould this meet the attention and approbation of the legiſlature, I doubt not, but in the end much benefit would be rendered to this country in the courſe of a few years.

The

The greateſt aim I have in thus inveſtigating the different matters I have here gone through, is to recommend a purſuit of thoſe wiſe meaſures which ſeem to be at preſent in agitation, and to aſſiſt in which it certainly becomes every perſon to ſtudy the means of equalizing every particular wherefrom the ſtate muſt draw any advantage. The abſurdity of aboliſhing all public offices will not bear an argument, as the number of perſons who are by that means ſupported in the various departments, muſt, in that caſe, be diſplaced, and the idea of their ſeeking other means of ſupport is vague, as the dearth in that way is already too fatally experienced by thoſe who are now unprovided. Decreaſing the number in gradation, as death decides, will prevent many people from introduc-

ing their ſons into that line of life; and in that inſtance it may not be felt ſo ſenſibly as by an abrupt determination; and it is ſurely highly commendable in our preſent miniſter, to abridge as much as poſſible the expence of the nation at large, as that muſt in time contract the national debt, which is the only means that can operate forcibly in reinſtating us to our antient conſequence, as a commercial and maritime ſtate.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XIX.

### ON PUBLIC SALES, HOW FAR USEFUL.

THAT the uſe of ſelling by auction is fully verified in a double capacity is true; but how far it operates for the good of the whole, is a matter to be decided by a more able pen; and I muſt conteſs, though I have occaſionally, with others, paid the duty on this mode of ſelling, I think it a moſt eligible tax that thus aſſiſts government without being felt by the commercial world; and at the ſame time that it yields ſo conſiderable an emolument to the ſtate, it

certainly in a ſmall degree bars the impoſitions which were daily practiſed of opening every empty houſe in the public ſtreets to delude ſtrangers to the purchaſe of goods of inferior quality at a large price, by placing there their own people to ſupport the prices of their infamous traſh. But in mercantile articles I think far otherwiſe; for the method of expoſing by the merchants whole cargoes of goods has a tendency to more harm than is eaſily imagined, as it not only through a ſpirit of oppoſition among the purchaſers, which is often the caſe, enhances the prices far above the value; but by expoſing each buyer one to another, prevents that private intercourſe in trade which ſhould be obſerved for the benefit of individuals; and as a proper method of dealing by a broker, even

by private contract, has been long eſtabliſhed, no probability of diſguſt between the parties can by any means ariſe; and I am convinced by experience, that every trader who goes ſecretly to market, even though he gives the ſame as in public, has a much greater ſatisfaction in buying, when he is clear that his neighbour or competitor in trade is not informed of ſuch tranſaction. Nothing has handed a more ſpecific proof of what I have here aſſerted than the deer-ſkin market, which by ſales have undoubtedly much enlarged the fortunes of the American merchants in the late war; but the oſtenſible ſufferer has been the manufacturer of thoſe goods, whoſe riſks in the various proceſſes the ſkins go through, is much greater than that of the ſea; taking it on an average, the money

that has within the laſt ſeven years been ſunk in that manufactory, through different channels, is ſcarcely credible, and to none more than myſelf has that fatality been experienced; as from the ſame returns, admitting a profit of one thouſand pounds or upwards per annum, which being contraſted under the above calamity, by the loſs of a thouſand for a ſucceſſion of years, with the addition of a diſſipated family, it may eaſily be ſolved what my ſituation muſt end in, as thoſe who were happy enough not to ſhare the laſt of thoſe misfortunes I have pointed out, have met a diminution of property, which will be ſenſibly felt by themſelves at preſent, and muſt be the ſame by their families in future.

It will be argued by many that ready-money is better circulated by

the means of auction ſelling, than any other way; but was it known how difficult that is at times obtained on the approach of a prompt, it would be allowed that trade in general is thereby much injured, whereas in private purchaſe diſcretion will guide agreeable to the deciſion of the finance, where goods are wanting; but as exultation where many people are met frequently preſides over reaſon, the parties ſometimes miſlead themſelves. Reſpecting eſtates and furniture they certainly never find ſo equal a value as in public, where honour directs in the diſpoſal; but as the connexion throughout trade is in regular progreſſion, ſo the whole being attended to, muſt, however it may ſeem to operate, yield to government in one ſhape or other, in the due encouragement of it in general

ral. But as in this caſe each perſon is left to choice, it may reaſonably be ſaid, if the public are not diſpoſed to encourage ſales by auction, the means to prevent their taking place is (if duly attended to) too obvious to need explanation; as owing to the reaſons above, much may be argued upon what practice dictates. Some may obſerve, that giving a ſanction to public markets, I ought more fully to adhere to the method of ſelling by auction; but as one binds to quantity and expoſes the purchaſer much more than the other, which leaves the buyer to treat privately, and more at liberty to make a choice agreeable to convenience, I truſt it may be conſtrued in the light I mean it, as my ſincere wiſh muſt be to recommend the ſupport of people of each deſcription

in

in trade; as notwithſtanding the impolitic aſſertion againſt the opulent trader, by a former miniſter of ſuch ſtepping into their coaches, on ſucceſs, I think I ſhall find many who will unite with me in the idea I entertain, that this country was never in ſo flouriſhing a ſituation, as when the tradeſman who had accumulated a fortune by induſtry, thought himſelf qualified to indulge with an occaſional ride in his own carriage, after the fatigue of the day had ſubſided. In caſe the market is occaſionally glutted with any particular article, diſtributing by auction, may be ſerviceable.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XX.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

HAVING digeſted minutely as much as poſſible the ſeveral parts which compoſe the trade and commerce of this country as far as I am able to avoid prolixity; as it was not my intention to ſatiate, while I mean to amuſe, (as to inſtruct I can by no means think) myſelf capable; but if from the experience of a life diverſified with as great a variety of ſcenes in trade, as have reached moſt people's notice, I am found in any ſhape able to aſſiſt, by giving my ſentiments ſo far, it will much palliate the ills I have

have from my adverſe fate ſo ſeverely felt; and much more ſo ſhould I be flattered in future adequately to the approbation this work has met in manuſcript, from ſuch who are not only diſintereſted in their deciſion, but who are perfectly acquainted with the fundamental parts of the branches I have ſelected for my obſervations, in which laſt I truſt I may again exhibit without diffidence to that generous public, who at this time ſo pleaſingly encourage the attempt, which in this abſtracted ſtyle, I am told, is the firſt on this plan that has been handed on ſo copious a ſubject; but as I promiſe it as a treatiſe, I think in that diction I have a right to expect a legal demand, and to which I intend explicitly to yield, by recommending to every individual, as they regard the welfare of their

their native country, to contribute their mite to the general good, as far as ability can preſcribe, and to conſider that every improvement that can be made in agriculture, muſt promote induſtry; that every new ſcheme which can be agitated to promote fiſhing, either for food (to aſſiſt in reducing the prices of proviſions) or as an article in trade, will not only prove a nurſery for ſeamen, but likewiſe muſt introduce a flow of wealth into the hands of all concerned, and in courſe, to the whole country by circulation. That mining encourages much our intercourſe with foreign markets, and conſequently is a moſt deſirable object to purſue. That mechaniſm and ingenuity are productive of new introductions, and if they do not deſtroy, muſt greatly promote the needful

aſſiſtance

assistance at this time required by our poor brethren, and that inland navigation duly attended to must much unite the interest of the distant countries where an aid to each other is wanting, and in the cause and event must be of infinite use, as in both much labour is required; that bounties and premiums being alternately applied to allure, as the end is answered for which they were originally designed, will not fail to suggest to different people new ideas in the line of accumulation, which must have a good tendency to promote trade, and that the encouragement held out, for attempting the polite arts and sciences cannot be too much countenanced, as it naturally is followed by a refinement of the manners which, if it may be said will increase effeminancy, at the same time abates brutality;

and

and ſoftens by degrees the ferocity of the natural habits, and leads to ſympathy the untoward mind, and thereby renders the moſt eſſential ſervice.

Public companies, by jointly or ſeparately giving a ſanction to new inventions, muſt be univerſally ſerviceable; as their permanency is generally eſtabliſhed, and contracts hand out to the world the picture of the man who eſtabliſhes them, as, ſooner or later, his real character in life will be ſhewn in the execution of ſuch material buſineſs, which muſt be a clue to the innate principle of man's heart. That patents where they are duly conſidered in the diſpoſal, are uſeful to promote induſtry, by making new diſcoveries and if they do not abridge of, may help the poor to employ, and may be other-

otherwiſe of infinite ſervice, where the diſpoſal is prudently made to manufactories in infancy, which ſhould be pruned, but not lopped too cloſe, eſpecially where there is the imitation of foreign goods in ſight; as to promote the work of our own country is a needful ſtep, and what will bar many inconveniencies.

On the regulation of the public funds ſo much depends, that it ſhould be a leading comment, as that would operate to trade, as ſpring to vegetation after a long froſt, when the genial warmth of the ſun operates with double power: thus has the circulation been frozen for years, and in their congealed ſtate have almoſt cloſed the pores of trade; but from the encouragement held out on the increaſed ſums in the treaſury, I truſt great

great events will ſucceed in this particular.

The diſtinction between places of amuſement and thoſe encouraging luxury, ſhould be preciſely adhered to, as one might be with ſome propriety made liable to the wants of the ſtate, while the other, as far as prudence directs, may be, by relaxing the mind occaſionally from too eagerly purſuing a ſpecific object, of eſſential ſervice, and as variety in dreſs is frequently the conſequence among thoſe in an exalted line, it muſt, in ſome ſhape or other, be ſerviceable, as likewiſe to the mechanic and ingenious artiſt. That public charities are an embelliſhment to this country, which time nor cenſure can never eradicate, and which, I hope, will one day meet the ad-

addition of an hoſpital a few miles ſouth from the metropolis, where the poor, under conſumptive and aſthmatic complaints may find relief, who are denied admittance in other places of charity, and by being obligated to enter a pariſh poor-houſe, partake of the foul air abounding in ſuch places, which ſoon puts a final period to their exiſtence, than which they have had no other proſpect, from their firſt entrance into ſo improper a receptacle where that diſorder prevails; and as this is frequently the caſe with young people of both ſexes, I wonder much the medical gentlemen have not recommended ſo ſalutary a relief in this country, where hoſpitality, humanity and generoſity, go hand in hand, in perfect unity with each other. I did not mean to have here introduced ſuch a ſubject, but I have

I have had long in my ideas a deſire of promoting ſo needful and requiſite a ſcheme; but my adverſe fate having deprived me of the means of contributing my mite, I have been diffident of recommending, without being able to give it a proper ſanction. But I hope, if it has not yet been agitated, it may not be too late to conſider it, I mean before the waſte lands are intirely diſpoſed of: as on one of thoſe mild ſpots, I mean to notice the propriety of ſuch an erection, where a proper allottment of ground, to ſupply with milk diet and vegetable food, would enable the public to try the event at an eaſy expence; and I am convinced, that it would be attended with the moſt ſalutary effects, by ſaving to the ſtate the lives of many young ſubjects annually, excluſive of the ſatisfaction it muſt render

render each benevolent aſſiſtant in reſtoring them to their families and the community; thoſe who muſt otherwiſe, in the true ſenſe of the word be, literally ſpeaking, poiſoned with a conſtant flux of fœted air in confinement. Hounſlow Heath being ſituated in a mild air and gravelly ſoil, both which are eſſential where the lungs are affected, might be a uſeful ſpot for ſuch an inſtitution. Was ſuch a ſcheme once agitated, it might be in ſome degree aſſiſted by contributions from ſome of the opulent hoſpitals in town, as ſuch means would eaſe them of the trouble and expence attending many out-patients.

That taxation cannot be diſpenſed with is a certainty too well eſtabliſhed to admit of diſpute, and there are many countries which labour under the

ſame diſagreeable predicament; and could the neceſſaries of life and needful habitations be avoided, it could not be ſuppoſed but other things muſt bear a part; and where other impoſts are remitted, and the propoſition adhered to, the oppreſſion is mitigated; and, I truſt, the burden will in time ſit much lighter than it at preſent does, every method being apparently taken to bar the inconvenience of the ſubject, much to the honour of the preſent miniſter.

That ſome reſtraint on the ſpirit of building was neceſſary, has been long argued, and if ſo, the impoſt on the bricks and tiles muſt have that tendency; my reaſons for entertaining in part a different opinion, I ſtated in full with counter-part, but ſhould be glad to ſee the ſame matter taken up by a more able decider in ſuch a con-

conſequential concern; but public markets being wanting where new ſtreets are arranged, there might be a temporary relief granted which might eſſentially ſerve numbers, as many people might gain thereby a comfortable ſubſiſtence, and the inhabitants would be much better accommodated. Aſſurance offices are very needful to be encouraged by people of every deſcription, and in all parts of the kingdom, as that protection is productive of great good to trade in general.

The coinage of this country is an article well worth the attention of the legiſlature reſpecting ſilver or copper, the gold having been duly attended to at a great expence, and to prevent fraudulent practices, too much care cannot be taken, as ſuch temptations are an inlet to the worſt of all vices,

deception, which, notwithſtanding the puniſhments daily inflicted, is not ſufficiently deteſted to aboliſh it; cuſtom and exciſe duties I have noticed as far as my abilities will reach, and I wiſh not to enter upon it any farther than my own obſervations have led me; but I acknowledge a ſincere deſire of ſeeing adopted ſuch modes as may promote ingenuity, induſtry, and new arts, by giving alike an equal chance to the ſmall as the large trader, which encouragement would give a much larger ſcope to genius, by exciting thoſe who have not ample fortunes to try the means of obtaining them, by puting their beſt abilities to the teſt, for a gratification of their ambitious views. Public ſales have been the ſubject of my obſervations in due courſe, and as each perſon can in

ſome

ſome meaſure direct themſelves, except in particular caſes, I do not preſume to enlarge any more on that matter, but to ſay that in flouriſhing times in this country, but few were wanting, as the demand for moſt articles was then ſo rapid as not to admit of ſo great a loſs of time, nor in time of peace, is it ſo much a cuſtom in the market for mercantile goods.

After the inveſtigation of the different matters under my notice ſeparately and together, I can advance no farther to advantage on that account; but as there has been, to my great misfortune, too much expence in matters of law in my family, I ſhall animadvert on thoſe particulars, as far as I can introduce caſes to ſupport my opinion; but do not mean to ſubject myſelf to the cenſure of thoſe concerned, any farther than I

really think I am authoriſed to do, from a deſire I have to prevent (among my own connexions and acquaintance, or otherwiſe within reach of this publication) litigious ſuits, and diſagreeable altercations, where it can anſwer no eſſential purpoſe whatever, either to the aggreſſed or the aggreſſor; and where oppreſſion is the governing motive, as is too often the caſe in the moſt natural concerns in life. Copious as the laſt diſcuſſion has been, I think I have the moſt arduous taſk before me, and what requires the greateſt delicacy in the interference, as on the legality of that particular depends ultimately the peace and good order of ſociety; and was there a modification eſtabliſhed more within reach of people, where redreſs is wanting, it might tend to better order and

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regulation; but as that muſt be diſtinctly pointed out, I ſhall uſe my utmoſt exertion to diſcloſe, with all the candor and impartiality I am capable, in as regular progreſſion as circumſtances will admit, without farther apologies.

## CHAP. X.

### ON THE EXTENT OF THE LAW, AND THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF PEOPLE THEREIN ENGAGED.

THAT the extent of the law, exceeds much in deſcription the ideas of people in general, till fatal

experience adviſes them to the contrary, I believe is a received opinion; and owing to the veil drawn over it in the firſt onſet, much miſchief originates, particularly where a deficiency of knowledge leads to an error, to which the limitation is unknown in the firſt proceeding. Many have been the cauſes alledged for the increaſe of numbers in the attornies liſt; ſome imputing it to the refinment of the day, owing to the extra education given to the male youth of this kingdom by tradeſmen and others of contracted fortune, who miſconſtruing the meaning of good education, place them in a line totally inconſiſtent with their future proſpects in life, which incurs a loſs in the trading line not to be fathomed by thoſe who have not a ſpeculative turn, as trade not only loſes a uſe-

a uſeful member, but perhaps, by being a ſuperfluous limb of the law, he is obligated (wanting ſuitable connexions) to ſupport him in credit, he is the oſtenſible cauſe of letigious ſuits being fermented where peace and good order might otherwiſe take place; and where, till he is grown callous, his own feelings muſt be ſenſibly affected. By this means, there being more young people introduced into the profeſſion of the law than can poſſibly be maintained in an honourable line, ſuch ſteps are taken as are utterly inconſiſtent in a land of liberty, where property ought to be too ſacred to be ſubjected to unavoidable depredations; for ſuch they are, from falſe inſinuations of ſucceſs which are held out to every plaintiff as a certainty, and operate in moſt caſes diametrically oppoſite to

the original intention of both parties, as aggravation often prevents honeſt intentions in the contending parties to their irreparable loſs in the concluſion.

On inquiry, I am informed there is a limitation to the number of attornies in each court of law; if ſo, it is much to be lamented that 'tis not more attentively adhered to, to prevent the ill conſequences which follow from their being almoſt numberleſs. It is argued by ſome, that was the law curtailed government would be abridged in the ſtamp department; but whoever adopts that ſyſtem will find it erroneous, as could the time and money which is exhauſted in the progreſs of the law, be employed in the commercial world, it would, I am perſuaded, render a much greater emolument to the ſtate by circulation:

lation: and ſhould there not be found eligible ſituations adequate to the number of inhabitants, barring the law, colonization would be a more ſignificant remedy, than permitting, under colour of the law, one man, literally ſpeaking, to devour the vitals of another; however the ſentiments of mankind in general may be diſguiſed, I am fully convinced that the generality of people, will coincide with me in opinion reſpecting this buſineſs; and that to point out a remedy eſſentially neceſſary to the welfare of the community, is the wiſh of thouſands, and of none more than thoſe of confirmed reputation in that ſcience, if I may ſo call it; as they are frequently, to my knowledge, obliged to refuſe defending the cauſes offered them, at the inſtigation of thoſe who find themſelves injured by

the unſkilled or unfair practitioners of the law.

If the legiſlature could be properly appriſed of the injurious conſequences attending the ſuperfluous branches which overrun the ſtrength of the root, they certainly would adopt ſome mode of prevention, by attending the limitation preſcribed by their predeceſſors in that line, and by levying an annual aſſiſtance to the ſtate, on the needful number retaining their conſequence; and, to ſupport it, let that ſtipend be doubled to all who determine to riſk a greater proportion, with a fine of one or two hundred pounds on admittance; this would inevitably put the law on the moſt reſpectable footing, as in lieu of a perſon neceſſitated ſowing ſedition for bread, the man of repute would diſſuade litigious applicants from

from purſuing ſuch meaſures as might bring on themſelves diſgrace and contempt, and on their clients poverty and ſhame. I cannot help thinking, according to my own opinion, but ſome ſuch mode would aſſiſt government, mend the morals, and correct the abuſes of mankind in general; and muſt likewiſe tend to promote trade, by barring the diſguſts which occaſionally ariſe from the litigations ſet on foot by a miſtaken light being thrown on thoſe trifling occurrences, which continually ariſe from a variety of intercourſe, and in matters of negociation will ever be ſhewing themſelves, but which might ſoon ſubſide, where an upright attorney has the intereſt of his client at heart; whatever may be urged to the contrary, I am well convinced the good effects would ſoon

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be felt, the ſtate benefitted, and no one injured, as thoſe who are now occupied in that way would not be deprived the means of obtaining a ſubſiſtence, and thoſe who intend at preſent to introduce their children to the pen, would, by being timely appriſed, ſeek for them a more eligible employ, than that of intruding their wants too powerfully on the public.

That there is a real neceſſity for a certain number of theſe uſeful members of ſociety, is daily proved from demonſtration, as without them regularity cannot be eſtabliſhed, nor can property be legally conveyed; but the tautology incident to what is called legal proceeding with thoſe who want honourable experience and uprightneſs of heart, is ſuch as muſt give a fatal blow to the young

young adventurer in trade, when he is once fettered with the names of John Doe, Richard Roe, and other ſuch legal cotemporaries. That where principle is wanting law muſt interfere, can by no means be denied for the preſervation of thoſe whoſe protection I wiſh to place in able hands; but if that is not done with caution, the remedy is worſe than the diſeaſe; perſecution inſtead of mending, only tending to mar the good intentions at firſt meant to be eſtabliſhed; how much the original law has been perverted, is ſeen in inſtances daily which introduce themſelves occaſionally to almoſt every individual, and which I was many years ſince informed had cauſed the practical part of the law to decline much; but I believe it has again revived with its uſual ferocity,

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as both cauſes and events moſt amply teſtify; but as from the example of ſome of the neighbouring ſtates in abridging the procraſtination which uſually attends law proceedings, much uſe is found, particularly that in Chancery, on which depends the riſe or fall of ſo many opulent families, whoſe inheritance is barred from generation to generation, and during that time the ſuſpence and anxiety the parties labour under, the contingent expences, and the difficulty in drawing a line to ſtate their preſent to their future uncertain proſpects in life, almoſt cancels the enjoyment whenever the deciſion is determined.

If it is ſeen by our rulers that to follow ſuch a precedent will be ſerviceable to the ſtate, I truſt that among

among other reforms that will not paſs unnoticed; but as I mean to divide this matter into different parts as I have the other, I ſhall proceed as briefly as poſſible to comment on thoſe wherein I have either felt the dire effects, or have ſeen ſuch paſſages among my friends as have afforded me ſufficient notice to ſee where the convenience or inconvenience is effectual to each party occaſionally; at the ſame time, aſſuring my readers, that I have no quotations whatever to govern me in this matter, as till long ſince I had finiſhed it, did any ſimilar matter reach my notice, nor can I preſume after the exhibition of Mr. Poſthlewaite's works, that mine will bear any alluſion; but that its being genuine and in ſmall compaſs, my pride will be much gratified if I am

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in any ſhape made ſenſible that this effort to ſerve is acceptable or uſeful to the public, in handing out thoſe obſervations which in private life, (if I may ſo call it in the line I have been in,) have occured, and wherein I have ſeen how far they are eſſential or not.

## CHAP. XXII.

### ON CIVIL PROCESS.

THE arbitrary ſyſtem of what is termed civil laws has been long complained of, though I do not believe

lieve it has ever yet been much noticed; the learned and reverend Dr. Burn who has rendered this country ſo eſſential a ſervice in collecting the laws, and handing that uſeful publication to the world, has not, as I recollect, digeſted any part of them, but has impartially delivered them without any obſervations of his own on the ſubject; but as nothing can rouſe the ſenſations equally with experience, 'tis on that I ground this argument, that the perſecution, as I cannot call it by a milder name, which iſſues occaſionally from the ſpiritual court, exceeds all others, I believe is a received opinion, as in caſe of an aſſault in failure of paying a few ſhillings fine, from proceſs to proceſs being followed through every court, the amount ſoon renders a man the object of impriſon-

priſonment, where perhaps the converſation of two of his friends might in the courſe of an hour have mitigated the buſineſs to the ſatisfaction of all parties.

That a deciſion is neceſſary in intricate matters, is too well known to admit of a diſpute, and could that be more eaſily and ſpeedily obtained, juſtice would more frequently preſide, but the awful attempt of appealing being attended with ſo much expence, delay, and uncertainty, obliges many thouſands to ſubmit under known oppreſſion in private, rather than riſk the improbability of redreſs under the ſanction of that law, which, during procedure, embarraſſes the mind and corrodes on the ſenſes too often, ſufficiently to prevent thoſe under ſuch diſagreeable circumſtances, from attending

tending properly their needful employ, and if it is a matter of conſequence, frequently ends in their utter ruin. Was this duly conſidered, I am apt to think the perſons who profeſs the law, would themſelves gladly abridge both in the time and the expence, as by ſuch prudent meaſures the more frequent applications in undecided matters, would amply compenſate them, as juſtice would not give way to oppreſſion was a legal determination to be had on more eaſy terms, but while it remains encumbered with ſo great a variety of perplexing circumſtances, it will ever deter the injured party (in many caſes) where procraſtination and unlimited expence alike bar the propriety of a ſpeedy iſſue.

I am

I am urged to this obſervation by two remarkable inſtances in my own family, both which I noticed in the narrative I have introduced; the firſt was that of my father's ſeparation from his ſecond wife, in which, though he was at laſt ſucceſsful in not being obligated to maintain her, (after betraying his confidence) yet he was not only at an inceſſant expence for a ſucceſſion of years, but was, at the inſtigation of that imprudent woman, incumbered with proceedings from four different courts; and was likewiſe ſubjected to the diſagreeable ceremony of being excommunicated out of his own pariſh church where he then lived, and had done many years in great credit; this I can verify, as not being appriſed, I unfortunately was on the ſpot at the time, and though the

ſituation he lived in acquitted him, yet it ſeemed to himſelf a ſtigma which it required ſome years to eradicate.

Sorry I am to ſay, that this unfortunate event did not put my father ſufficiently upon his guard in the diſpoſal of his effects, to prevent my following him, (though in another line) into the Perogative Court, where I likewiſe was ſucceſsful, through the vigilance of the beſt of Proctors, but ſix years was nearly ſpent notwithſtanding his aſſiduity, before I was relieved from the anxious ſuſpence I ſo long laboured under; but conſidering the confinement, ſometimes not being able to leave town, and other diſagreeable circumſtances, the deciſion is hardly adequate to any part of it, for which cauſe alone, I have ſince endeavoured

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to avoid entering into litigations if there was any poſſibility of preventing ſuch diſtreſſing diſquiet, though I have been the oſtenſible ſufferer in ſeveral caſes where I ſhould, had things operated more rapidly, have ſought proper aid from the laws of my country.

The profeſſors of civil law are amply paid in all their proceedings, particularly where maritime property is concerned, as one war of a few years duration, generally furniſhes them, (if not too avaricious,) with a genteel competency for life; and having this extra chance over others in different departments, I could wiſh that advantage to lead them to a due conſideration for the good of mankind in general, by enabling the injured to obtain redreſs at ſo eaſy an expence as not in future to be reſtrain-

reſtrained from obtaining that juſtice in practice which has been from time immemorial handed to them in theory.

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## CHAP. XXIII.

### ON CHANCERY SUITS.

HAVING already ſlighty noticed the inconveniencies attending Chancery buſineſs, it may be thought intruding again to introduce it, but as the procraſtination I pointed out in civil proceedings is much augmented in this court, I cannot help

obſerving the neceſſity there appears for an inveſtigation of that particular; though much to the honour of the preſent chancellor, many ſuits have been ended that had been long in ſuſpenſe; this is a court I have had but little experience in, but as I have been concerned for other people, when I have found much difficulty and expence in the purſuit of any buſineſs there pointed out; the tautology in the proceedings is too great to enable thoſe who are unſkilled in the law to have any diſcernment in their own concerns, to regulate their conduct, and owing to the precarioufneſs of thoſe events, many are totally ruined whoſe credit reſts on the deciſion of a depending cauſe; this, if it has not already taken the attention of the legiſlature, I hope, among other regulations

regulations will come under notice; the hardſhip ſuſtained by people in trade, thus circumſtanced, is not to be deſcribed, as too many exhibitions in the Gazette originate from this ſource, which is inexhauſtible to thoſe who unfortunately are obligated to have recourſe to what is called a court of equity.

Many concerned in the practice of the law reprobate the mode of arbitration, ſo much in practice in trade, but as that is not always permanent, the preference would frequently be given to a final ſettlement by law; could there be a more ſpeedy determination in matters ſo eſſential, as in conſequence of large concerns often ariſe, particularly in ſimple contract buſineſs; in this as in the chapter preceding, I wiſh, to thoſe who would benefit greatly by

the increaſe of their clients, to recommend ſuch meaſures as might induce others, who would be then willing to apply to them, when need requires to adopt the means of expedition in all their proceedings, that juſtice and equity may unite to the welfare of the community; but particularly to the trading part, as much owing to the above cauſe many evils enſue, and the priſons of this country are much filled by ſuch fallacious proceedings to the great detriment of many ſuffering families.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XXIV.

## ON EXCHEQUER SUITS.

THOSE who are connected with exciſe buſineſs have ſometimes unavoidable occaſion to go into the Exchequer, which being ſubjected to the opinion of four gentlemen, who are thoſe of experience and learning, carries with it a plauſible appearance; but the crown paying no coſts, obliges many whoſe grievances want redreſs to paſs over real ills, being awed thereby from applying to juſtice, where it would be highly proper to ſeek it, but that

the event being more early known, enables the tradeſman to again return to his uſual occupation in life is certain, time being of eſteem duly conſidered as money; but notwithſtanding the more ſpeedy deciſion ſome inconveniencies attend, the meaſures being very rigorous in general, and though it may be hard to draw a line of mediocrity between the King and his Subjects, yet I am led to believe was there more lenity ſhewn, where only neglect (not fraud) appears it might be more beneficial to the revenue, as deſperate diſeaſes require deſperate remedies, and on a large expence accruing on Exchequer ſuits, means may be taken to redreſs or reinſtate the loſs. I only ſpeak caſually on this matter, as I never experienced the trouble of that court, no litigation having attended

tended my proceedings in that way more than once, when on preſenting a proper petition, ſtating real facts, and ſupporting it with ſufficient evidence, my prayer was granted; and I believe, were ſuch ſteps taken more frequent, the trader would fare better than by contending with extreme power, for ſuch it muſt be in that lofty court; and the right of trial by jury being in ſome ſhape perverted by improper people being ſelected who are not competent to the taſk, or the knowledge of the different trades from whence thoſe cauſes originate; was there a more prudent choice made where matters of weight are introduced, a more able deciſion would frequently take place; and if ſo, the temptations to illicit practices would more rarely meet the conceptions of people who

deal in exciſeable goods, the prudent method taken at preſent in reducing the duties, will ſupport this argument in defiance of any other that may be adopted, whatever may be adduced to the contrary.

One thing ſtrikes me more forcibly on this ground than any other, which is, that notwithſtanding the various informations which have been handed through different channels to government, of the exportation of ſheep and wool from this country; that thoſe people who thus act with impunity, bidding defiance to law, juſtice, and humanity, by wreſting from the poor their natural employ, ſhould be ſuffered daringly to proceed without interruption: ſure I am, that many hundred thouſand pounds are annually loſt to this country by ſuch neg-

neglect; and this coming ultimately within the cognizance of the Court of Exchequer, I wiſh moſt earneſtly to recommend it as the moſt glaring object of notice at preſent to be handed for the ſervice of the Public, the merits of which I ſhall not again enter into, having in various obſervations in the Treatiſe on Trade pointed out this error with all its deformities, and I hope not in vain, as a more crying evil, backed with the cries of many thouſands of our ſtarving manufacturers, will, I hope, need no farther repetition, which ſo egregiouſly demands the attention of every well wiſher to their country.

The great introduction of cambrics and their general wear by people of all ranks and denominations in life, is another material ob-

ject likewiſe wanting heed from the ſame quarter; as were ſuch to pay their quota, much aſſiſtance would be yielded to the ſtate, and as they are of foreign manufactory, no imputation could be laid by the public on the propoſer, as at all events, it would countenance ſome other manufactories, ſuch as Hamburgh and Sileſia lawns, which not only pay a large duty inward, but much encourage the woollen trade in the way of barter; as wanting the ſanction they formerly met at this market, they not only ſmuggle their lawns into Scotland, which come here without paying duty, under the idea to the public of being there wove, but are induced to go to the French for their woollen articles, which is the oſtenſible cauſe of the wool and ſheep being there clandeſtinely conveyed,

veyed, which in progreſſion gives riſe to the various evils I have ſo much pointed out, and which, ſhould I ſee by this obſervation redreſſed, nothing will give me a more ſenſible or pleaſing ſatisfaction, than in ſome means cauſing an inveſtigation into ſo fatal a neglect.

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## CHAP. XXV.

### ON COMMON LAW.

UNDER the denomination of Common Law is included the various diviſions of conveyancing, bond ſecurities, contracts, arreſts,

and in fact the origin of every other proceeding, as on improperly (at times) conſulting an attorney young in experience, ſuits are wrongfully commenced, which frequently cauſe vexation, where in lieu of ſo doing, was a Special Pleader or Counſellor to be applied to, much evil and delay might be prevented; but I am ſorry to ſay, that is not the caution uſually taken by individuals, which as a Phyſician in caſes of diſeaſe, I am ready to think might operate to the ſame advantage, and ſave great expence, particularly where the perſons aggrieved are able to ſtate their own caſe in plain truth; as in matters of trade and mercantile concerns, altercations will ariſe, and the regulation of matters tending to diſpute on the firſt onſet from the opinion of a man high in profeſſion, would

would carry with it a weight ſufficient to bar any farther litigation.

Compoſitions with creditors, where honeſty preſides, might, under ſuch conſultation, be at times regulated without the diſagreeable mode of arreſt, which attornies of reputation generally wiſh to avoid, by which means a man might be left to purſue his occupation to future advantage, inſtead of exhauſting the property of his legal creditors in a priſon, and the attorney would even then partake of the advantages, by conciliation, as all agreements of that tendency muſt be confirmed by him to be valid; and in that caſe, his reputation muſt be more permanently eſtabliſhed than by any other mode, as this would not aboliſh, but would more ſolidly adopt ſuch laudable meaſures, and would certainly induce

duce the generality of people to take ſuch ſteps rather than purſue the rigorous means which are now uſed to the ruin of many thouſands, who might, by ſuch ſeaſonable relief be continued ſerviceable members of the community. I do not mean by this to affront the gentlemen of the profeſſion; but to preſcribe to my fellow ſubjects ſome more eligible mode of proceeding againſt unfortunate debtors than hurrying them to a confinement, where being no limitation to their durance, as in caſes of felony, they are ſubjected to the capricious humours of their plaintiffs, till principle, property, health and ſtrength are alike exhauſted, and connexions worn out, when the langour attending ſuch undecided fate, prevents their forming any plans of future ſucceſs.

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As I mean to enlarge particularly on the act of impriſonment, I ſhall not here enter into particulars; but by thus pointing out a few of the principal evils, attending that miſtaken unlimited puniſhment, I mean to prepare my readers for the concomitant circumſtances and inconveniencies which follow thoſe precipitate inconſiſtencies.

The legiſlature having wiſely regulated the mortgage buſineſs, no improvement remains to be made on that matter in freehold eſtates; but in copyhold, (by experience) I well know much trouble attends, as having in the courſe of trade, once taken a ſecurity in that way, I am competent to complain of the delay, as the eſtate was actually ſold full fourteen months before I was able to obtain my ſhare of the money; and

and to come at it then, for the charges of my attorney, who was an upright and moderate man in his expences, I paid full ſeven and a half per cent. If ſuch material concerns as thoſe are to people in trade, are attended with ſuch procraſtination, the conſequence muſt be bad where the ſums are large; as thoſe diſappointments are too fatal to need my diſcuſſion; but at the ſame time when the limitation was fixed for foreclоſing, it is pity there was not ſome rule preſcribed for the payment of the purchaſe-money when ſold, allowing a proper and reaſonable time for ſo doing, as at preſent advantages are taken very detrimental, under particular circumſtances.

The Notary Publics, gain much in their profeſſion, (if that is the proper appellation) by the more expeditious

ditious mode of their proceedings, as where agreements in trade and foreign buſineſs is tranſacted, time is very material, and they make themſelves ſo ſenſible of it, as not to impoſe in that reſpect on their employers: it has been ſaid they aſſiſt the law by irregular executions; but I believe that information is not well grounded, as I know it is now a common practice to apply more frequently to thoſe uſeful people than ever in my memory; but I am ſtill convinced, that many who take that method, do it more on account of ſaving time than expence, and avoid at times what would yield an emolument to the procedure, in what is called a regular line of buſineſs.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XXV.

## ON ARRESTS AND IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

THIS chapter will afford much diſcuſſion, notwithſtanding what has been already noticed by various commentators on the laws and cuſtoms of this country; for that cuſtom only has eſtabliſhed that abominable proceeding, Magna Charta does amply teſtify; and, as I am informed, that it has only been in practice ſomewhere about two centuries, is a received opinion; but the iron paw of oppreſſion, has, by the loadſtone of

of emolument, adhered to that lucrative branch of cruelty, contrary to the received opinion of thoſe who firſt, for the general good, handed down a ſyſtem of regularity, and who firſt inſtituted the laws of this free country, if ſo it can be termed, while ſuch depredations are made on their original intention, for that no milder argument can be introduced in its favour, I believe each perſon will allow who has experienced thoſe illegal ſpecimens of arbitrary interference. The dire conſequences of arreſts are daily too fatal to both debtor and creditor, to admit of any argument to the contrary, and to paint the diſtreſs occaſioned by the appearance of a bailiff and his follower, particularly where a pleading family are witneſſes to the event, is better felt than deſcribed, not only by the terror

terror impreſſed on the ſufferer's mind, but from the horrid conſequences which muſt ſucceed if no terms are attended to for their releaſe; it may be argued, the advantage of bail is given to thoſe who have the misfortune to be arreſted, and provided it is only to ſettle a litigated matter, it may be very proper to call on a friend for ſuch aſſiſtance: but where a perſon's affairs are too much deranged to admit of ſuch a ſtep being taken, nothing but a compoſition can hold out any probable means of ſucceſs; and in that caſe, retirement in priſon may be proper till matters can be brought to a ſpeedy iſſue, and for that a time ſhould be fixed, which method is what is moſt recommended for the good convenience of all parties concerned. I have myſelf

while

while in trade, which I ever was till the year 1784, taken compoſitions in preference of purſuing rigorous meaſures; and our houſe was always remarked, in the line we were in, for ſuffering the leaſt by bad debts of any other, finding lenitive meaſures the greateſt incitement to an honeſt principle; and where the reverſe prevails, the law, rigid as it is meant to be in particular caſes, often leaves a vacuity for thoſe who chuſe to avail themſelves of it.

By ſuch adverſe methods the plaintiffs frequently looſe the opportunity of receiving an honourable dividend, and the defendant is deprived of his ſituation, where before he was (if honeſt) endeavouring to reinſtate himſelf ſufficiently to have in time ſatisfied the legal demands of his juſt creditors; the interference of attor-

nies,

nies, on both ſides the queſtion, is here often fatal, the one urging the plaintiff to extremities, to extort more than he is able to pay, and the other telling the defendant, that if he takes the method preſcribed, he will be able to bring his adverſary to terms; thus perplexed, and alternately adhering, he yields to the unpleaſant reception of a priſon, where by the corroding progreſs of deſpair, and its concomitants, he is loſt in a reverſion of confuſed ideas; where after being a long ſeries of time in the moſt awful ſuſpenſe, he exhauſts his ſtrength, loſes his health, debaſes his morals, corrupts his principles, ſpends unavoidably the money which would have paid his creditors, to the beſt of his ability, tires out his friends, diſpoſes of his clothes for needful ſupport, and after all, which is too often

often the caſe, dies for want of the neceſſaries of life; this is a truth which can be aſcertained by frequent teſtimony; yet ſtill the prevailing hardneſs of man's heart calmly ſits down under thoſe poignant reflections, and that without once applying the unfortunate caſe of the ſufferer to themſelves, either as Chriſtians, or members of the ſame community.

How far this may appear conſiſtent, is what time or reaſon cannot as yet unfold; that in a political ſenſe, it muſt appear wrong, I think needs no ſolution, as during impriſonment means cannot be uſed to ſupport the victims of ſuch untoward fate by induſtry, and conſequently each perſon ſo circumſtanced, is like the drone bee; by living on the ſpoil, (if to live it may be ſaid when exiſt-

ence is ſcarcely admitted) this certainly is a matter of the moſt ſerious nature, as the money which is daily ſpent, is a ſolid loſs to the manufactories of this country, of many thouſand pounds annually, as inſtead of a decent appearance being ſupported by people of an induſtrious habit, in cloathing themſelves at ſtated times, thoſe they enter a priſon with, are very ſoon made a ſacrifice of to the receiver of pledges and the wear of others, in lieu, which cannot (wanting a proper change) be kept ſufficiently clean, to encourage health, in time brings on a ſloth, which produces diſeaſe, and death either relieves the unfortunate wretch I have deſcribed, from lingering want and ſickneſs, or diſappoints the mercileſs creditors from gratifying his voracious appetite, and

ſatiating his wiſhes, by keeping (loſt to ſociety) the poor object of his rage; but however lightly he may regard a future determination, muſt certainly expect the reverſe of that ſentence, pronounced as a pious earneſt, to thoſe who have ſeen the ſick and in priſon in a ſpiritual, as well as literal ſenſe, and have viſited both in proper time, for their eſſential emolument.

To this may be added, the certain expence attending confinement, (which notwithſtanding the civil treatment of all the official people, where I have had the misfortune to diſtinguiſh) much owing to the diſadvantages attending the cloſeneſs of thoſe places, where the beſt oeconomiſt cannot provide with that care, which might otherwiſe be of great ſervice; add to this, the ex-

orbitant fees of thoſe who attend the priſoners on law buſineſs, particularly from the Court of Chancery, a maſter from thence being applied to, to adminiſter to me an oath, bid defiance to every diſtreſs which could be painted to him on my account, and charged for that ſpecific tranſaction, two guineas and coach hire; one guinea of which was extra on account of the King's Bench being on the Surrey ſide, and his reſidence in Middleſex; how far this is conſiſtent with the dictates of humanity, I leave to the deciſion of my candid and impartial readers, who I dare ſay will coincide with me in opinion, reſpecting the hardſhips a priſoner labours under, where his liberty is to be ſo dear a purchaſe, provided a courſe of law will obtain it, for taking the faireſt ſide of the queſtion; if unfortu-

fortunate debtors are to be thus obligated to their friends in the above purſuit, what can be pointed out to their future expectations when they have perhaps exhauſted the property of their creditors and family connexions.

The fate of felons being finally determined by Royal deciſion twice in the year, makes their ſuſpence of much ſhorter duration, and however it may be a probability of releaſe, being in what ſhape ſoever, barrs in ſome meaſure the anxiety attending the precarious ſituation of the debtor, whoſe misfortunes not reaching the ear of Royalty, is deprived the privilege yielded to oſtenſible offenders in the line of criminality.

Surely ſuch a contraſt could never be intended, even by thoſe who have taken the advantage of eſtabliſhing the cuſtom of thoſe horrid proceed-

ings, (I but faintly deſcribe) compared to the real ſtate of the caſe, where ſuch rigorous meaſures are adopted; as was this matter properly inveſtigated, by thoſe whoſe province it is to feel for the diſtreſſed, there certainly would be a remedy pointed out not only to thoſe who are now labouring under oppreſſion, but likewiſe a method to avoid ſuch unlimited puniſhment in future; for however mankind may judge one of another, 'tis certain that under the decrees of Providence, we are each alike liable to misfortunes in this life, and where they are imputed as crimes, there is wanting that impartial obſervation on human nature in general, which ſhould lead each perſon not to miſtake the ſhadow for the ſubſtance, as each alternately ſhew themſelves to various people of almoſt every deſcription. That

That the idea of impriſonment cauſes more emigration from this country than any thing elſe, I am well convinced, as no perſon who has a regard for his family, can with propriety foſter the idea of ſeeing them periſh for want, where he has been accuſtomed to ſupport them in a decent habit; and as he finds himſelf awed by the callouſneſs of the creditors to whom he has moſt probably offered his all, he finds no method of baniſhing from his conceptions, the ſtarvation of his family, then by turning his back on them to a foreign country, and leaving his dependants to be ſupported at the expence of the pariſh, to which he belongs, when by this means the king loſes a ſubject and his labour, the community a member, his family a friend, and the country perhaps

in time a manufactory, that may be eſtabliſhed in another dominion, through the poignant neceſſities of a diſcarded and oppreſſed member of ſociety, who moſt likely at one time of his life, had been ſufficiently loyal, to have deteſted the means he is drove to purſue, from the rigour he dreads in a land of liberty; I am ſorry to ſay, it cannot long be honoured with that appellation, if the liberty of the ſubject is not, (in caſes of real diſtreſs) more particularly attended to. I hope no one will in this obſervation, charge me with impunity, as I have through the whole of this work, endeavoured to point out the mildeſt methods I could ſuggeſt, to promote the laudable end this is meant to obtain, by encouraging the induſtrious part of mankind in every branch, and this

I am

I am thoroughly convinced will lay on the ſubject (from principle) a more laſting reſtraint, and attachment to his country, then the moſt rigid puniſhment that can be iſſued by a royal mandate.

I wiſh notwithſtanding the arguments I have adduced, not to legally reſtrain the ſword of juſtice, as well knowing from long experience in trade, how neceſſary it is to protect property; but where a real calamity ſhews itſelf, which may be eaſily diſtinguiſhed, the puniſhment of an individual is but a poor recompence to the creditor, who on the firſt failure by lenient meaſures, might receive at leaſt ſome part of the demand; but if perſecution is to follow diſaſter, the event muſt be very ſoon decided, and in the eye of an impartial perſon, whoſe feelings bear

an equal poiſe to the general eſtimate of life the deſtination at thoſe times, eſſays well the ſentiments of his heart, and operates more forcibly towards his generoſity or diſguſt, then many years common occurrences; and as juſtice and mercy are legal aſſociates, the embelliſhment of one, muſt in the event add an unfading luſtre to the other. On the other hand; where principle is wanting, 'tis certainly proper the law ſhould enforce that honeſty which ſupports the bonds of ſociety, as without that attention no perſon can be ſafe, and to prevent the very idea of fraud, is to promote induſtry. I would wiſh if that is clearly diſcernible, to puniſh ſuch delinquents with pepetu al impriſonment, for though the neceſſity of protecting honeſty, plainly appears, yet too much ſeverity

cannot

cannot be inflicted where iniquity preſides, as where the leading principle is bad, the community will benefit but little, and ſuch perſons are to be avoided in whatever light they may be ſeen by the world in general.

Much has been obſerved reſpecting impriſonment for debt, it will yet admit of ſome farther comment; or at leaſt to propoſe ſome other purſuit, as the evils it is productive of, I believe, will admit of but little diſpute; but as there requires ſo nice a deciſion, the only way to avoid partiality in individuals, will certainly be to ſubmit the mitigation required between debtor and creditor to the determination of the crown, as perſonality there will not be exceptionable, and where a debtor will on oath deliver up to proper commiſ-

ſioners for that purpoſe appointed, and appears not to be deficient by miſconduct, if the creditor would not accept of ſuch an honourable propoſal, then to ſubject him to cenſure, fine, or forfeiture to the Crown, of thoſe effects he refuſes to accept; this would certainly be of univerſal ſervice, as either trade would be benefited by a member being reſtored, or the Crown would receive aid towards diſcharging the national debt; where as at preſent the loſs ſuſtained to this country by the number of priſoners and fugitives, (which I am informed amount to the extraordinary number of between thirty and forty, or ſay thirty thouſand debtors only) at two ſhillings per day, is the immenſe ſum of one million and ninety five thouſand pounds per annum, at the loweſt eſti-

eſtimation of labour; as nearly one fourth part of this ſum would be circulated among the manufacturers of this country for cloathing; an incredible loſs muſt be ſuſtained in various ways, as ſo great a number of induſtrious people being barred their labour, was a briſk demand to come for goods to the foreign markets, the want of them might occaſion a ſcarcity of hands, in ſome particular branches, which if it ſhould cauſe an advance among thoſe who eſtimate ſuch things to their advantage, it might be productive of another evil, equal to what I have before deſcribed, and would, in courſe, have a very awful tendency; for which reaſon taking the average of the whole of what I have been repreſenting, I hope, in ſincerity, ſome more prudent meaſures will

hereafter be adopted, whereby the grievance thus complained of may be redreſſed, as taking an impartial ſurvey of mankind, it will be found that of all the errors which are fatal to this country, their is not a more crying evil, there that I have here deſcribed, as will be found on a more accurate ſurvey of life on a general ſcale.

As it is not to be ſuppoſed, that I can delineate ſufficiently this copious grievance, to point out to government proper means of redreſs, yet if from fatal experience I am enabled to give ſuch outlines of the material, as may lead to a farther inveſtigation of thoſe truths, which can be too fully aſſerted, ſo far as to urge a reform in that part of our laws, which bear ſo hard on the liberty of the ſubject, I ſhall be amply compenſated in the pleaſing

pleaſing reflection of having in any ſhape been ſerviceable to the community, and more particularly to thoſe whoſe adverſe fate (like my own) may have led them to ſuch a ſcene of inquietude as can by none be ſo amply explained, as thoſe who have ſpent ſome uneaſy months within the walls of a priſon.

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## CHAP. XXVII.

### ON ACTS OF INSOLVENCY.

WHATEVER argument may be adduced to prevent the legiſlature granting aſſiſtance to the unfor-

fortunate by bills of inſolvency, in the preſent predicament debtors ſtand, 'tis ſcarcely to be ſuppoſed they can be diſpenſed with, as certain it is, that the barbarity of creditors (in particular caſes,) is beyond conception, and where their own ſentiments would dictate lenient meaſures they are frequently barred exerciſing their humanity by the attornies they employ, who, covetous after lucre, pay no regard to the diſtreſſes of the needy, though ſenſible it can be of no avail to a client, to perſiſt where no property remains, yet callous to every tender ſenſation, he preſcribes confinement, where no palliative can be admitted; that ſome evil minded perſon may from a diſhoneſt principle, put themſelves into a jail, I cannot diſprove, but for the miſconduct of thoſe, many worthy people

people muſt ſuffer, if on that account ſuch mercy is denied as the needy crave, as compaſſion due to the pleadings of poverty and diſtreſs. That during the long intermiſſion of ſuch redreſs, many have fallen victims to want, diſeaſe and deſpair, is too true, which corroding alternately on the different paſſions, and in the final diſſolution of the wearied priſoner, who languiſhing on a bed of ſickneſs, and in want of neceſſaries, yields to the cold arms of death, as the only ſolution to his temporal woes, being refuſed from man that relief which he but required, to ſupport his drooping frame, from ſo early returning to its native earth.

It has been known, that after a priſoner has thus died for want, and has left behind him a wife on the verge of the grave, (from the like cauſe)

cauſe) that the plaintiff has immediately on the deceaſe of the unfortunate huſband, demanded the bed from under the poor widow, though only of the value of ſix ſhillings; this, in a land remarkable as it has hitherto been for the mildneſs of its laws, is certainly a laſting reflection, and much wants the interpoſition of ſuperior power, as ſuch proceedings, muſt bring a certain odium on all concerned, as far as they are properly informed; but ſuch is the little regard paid to people in unfortunate circumſtances, that for two ſucceſſive years, it has been known, a plaintiff has not inquired what has been the fate of the victim of his inſatiable rage: it ſurely never could be the intention of any perſon who directed ſuch puniſhment, that it ſhould be purſued for a ſucceſſion of years,

years, which is now frequently the caſe. As the partial relief afforded, after the deſtruction of the priſons, releaſed but a ſmall number of people in compariſon of the whole, and though it may not be political too frequently to liberate, yet under particular circumſtances, I am well convinced, that was the matter properly inquired into, after the ſucceſſion of evils which have followed a long and expenſive war, (to which the fortunes of thouſands have been ſacrificed) it will be found a neceſſary expedient, to encourage thoſe by ſuch a palliation, who having literally partook of the general calamity, may again reaſſume their occupations, and be made uſeful members of ſociety.

That the juſtice due to creditors, who have exerciſed no extreme cruelty,

elty, ought to take place, no perſon of honeſt principles can deny; but however partial it may appear, I cannot help thinking but there ſhould be a diſtinction where the puniſhment has originated, it having been expreſſed by a law lord of the firſt abilities, that ſix months impriſonment is equal to the payment of many thouſand pounds; if in that caſe, the cruel creditor was not permitted to partake of the ſmall pittance a priſoner has to offer, it certainly would make mankind more careful how they exerciſe their cruelty in future; and it would at the ſame time operate much to the advantage of the debtor, as the diligence he would unavoidably uſe to compenſate thoſe whoſe lenity he has experienced, muſt inevitably make him

him again a valuable acquiſition to the Public.

As to avoid emigration has been my ſtudy through this work, at leaſt to point out the beſt means towards it; I ſhall here make one farther obſervation, which I hope may tend to the propoſing ſome mode in future to prevent ſuch ſteps being taken, when an inſolvent act takes place. I have heard it argued that the ſubjecting future effects to the will of the creditors is indiſcriminately the cauſe of many people leaving this kingdom who otherwiſe would remain here, in hopes of accumulating a competency for their families, if any they have, but the idea of being compelled to what honour would in courſe direct, (where there is ability) cauſes many to alter their opinion and ſacrifice their connexions and proſpects in

in this country, for the ſake of appropriating the fruits of their induſtry to the uſes they think moſt fit to adopt; ſome exceptions might under ſuch a clauſe be made, where there are no families, that the property at the debtor's deceaſe ſhould revert to the creditors, except thoſe who were the immediate cauſe of impriſonment, as in that caſe no one could deſire to diſpoſe of it more legally; and if he had by that lenity been protected to the laſt hour, he certainly muſt feel a pleaſing ſenſation in the diſcharge of ſuch obligations as a virtuous inclination muſt urge him to; but leaſt in ſome caſes that promptitude ſhould be wanting, it might be neceſſary to empower proper people to take cognizance of thoſe concerns, as by that means property would again find its level

level, and there could not be any ſcurrilous imputation thrown out againſt the families of thoſe whoſe calamities have, at one time or other, arranged their names in the liſt of inſolvent debtors.

I know it will be ſaid by many, that was ſuch latitude given, few people would have principle ſufficient to make up their deficiencies; but I argue to the contrary, from my own knowledge; having ſeveral times in the courſe of experience ſeen that chearfully done by the debtor, and, in one inſtance, more particularly; I know a perſon who was cleared by an act of inſolvency who paid to every creditor the whole of their demand, ſome of which were to a large amount, by which means he re-eſtabliſhed his credit in an ample manner.

If

If on ſuch honourable return, the creditors were to make a ſuitable compliment on the receipt, it would be an incitement to others to follow ſuch laudable examples, eſpecially where generoſity, and not compulſion, is the motive. Much may be ſaid on both ſides the queſtion; but I am thoroughly convinced, that from the diſlike human nature ſhews to reſtraint in general, that more debts would be diſcharged by people ſtaying in this country, and yielding to their own innate principles, than will by any means be paid by the awful ſcourge of being liable to executions on their future property, for debts which the law itſelf in part has cancelled. But I do not wiſh to have my meaning miſconſtrued, or to have it ſurmiſed that I mean to propagate a ſhadow of diſhoneſty; I

would have it clearly underſtood, that property in reverſion of every deſcription, till the creditors are ſatisfied ſhould be included, as that certainly is what ought to be adhered to; but that the fruits of manual labour, or that which bears a ſimilarity to it, ſhould be in arrear, is certainly a barrier to that emulation which muſt be indiſpenſibly neceſſary to reinſtate any perſon in a decent ſituation, after the devaſtation made on health, ſtrength, property, and too often the morals of thoſe who have been long within the pale of a priſon.

As it is by no means my province to dictate, in a matter of ſuch conſequence, yet as I have undertaken to give my ſentiments on every matter which met my ideas, I truſt I ſhall be pardoned by all parties wherein

wherein I err; but in this as in other caſes, I only yield to the ſurvey I have made on the various occurrences of life, which have preſented themſelves to me in the courſe of a life diverſified with as much variety in a trading line, as I believe can furniſh any narrative at leaſt, conſidering, that no eſſential misfortune happened to any part of the family, till the cauſes eſtabliſhed by the diſſipation of my deareſt connexions, ſhewed themſelves to me in the event which produced this declaration to the world.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XXVIII.

## ON THE BANKRUPT LAWS.

THE legiſlature in this particular certainly meant to aſſiſt the unfortunate trader, by extricating him from the enthralments trade is ſo liable to in this precarious ſtate of things, by introducing ſuch meaſures as were thought moſt eligible to prevent litigious ſuits and vexatious proceedings; where either there was a deficiency of property, or that it lay veſted in ſuch hands as required extremities to recover it. To this end the bankrupt laws were eſtabliſhed, and could they have been

continued in the light they have been intended, they certainly muſt have been of great uſe; but while there is latitude ſufficient to ſubject ſuch unfortunate perſons to the rigour of the law, after ſubmitting to be arraigned (which it no doubt is) before the commiſſioners, it is admitting of fetters in a double ſenſe; for conſidering the diſquietude preceding a ſtatute being taken out, the palliative of a clearance is the only conſolation that can be rendered, and much philoſophy is required to yield up with chearfulneſs the ſmall remains of a tattered fortune, which, to keep together perhaps has coſt both tears and toil; but adverſe fate ſtands in the way, and when the ſtream turns it muſt have its courſe; and a ſtatute is held out as an allurement to begin the world on a freſh

account; but how that operates may be ſeen in the various priſons to which thoſe unfortunate people are obliged to retire, owing to the caprice of an unfeeling creditor, whoſe heart being too hard to be ſuſceptible of human woes, and too callous to bring to his ideas the diſtreſs he muſt aggravate, by arreſting a perſon who has rendered up the whole of his property, takes the moſt early opportunity to wreak his vengeance on the legal ſacrifice to the laws of his country; and I am truly ſorry to ſay I have known that done before a bankrupt has left Guildhall, after his laſt examination: how far this ſavours of mercy I leave the reader of this account to determine, as likewiſe what muſt be the ſituation of the unfortunate perſon who can have no other proſpect before him

than either ſtarving or impriſonment; if the firſt, the ſtruggles of nature are not to be repulſed, and if the latter, for want of bail, which in ſuch a ſituation is not to be expected, he has no proſpect but ſuch as I have before deſcribed, with all the horrors which human nature can paint; as people are not often ſo credulous as to riſk their property to a priſoner to get bread by his trade or profeſſion, and if not, the conſequences muſt be fatal, and the creditor is at the ſame time enlarging the debt, by incurring law expences, which, without reluctance, he charges to the account of the victim of his rage.

I am informed the bankrupt laws are near expiring, if ſo, it is much to be wiſhed, that on the reviſion of them, more lenity may be ſhewn to the unfortunate people whoſe troubles

bles bear too hard on them to come under the deſcription of priſoners: after the manifold diſadvantages various people labour under preceding the ſtatute, ſurely it never was intended that in this kingdom there ſhould be at one time, as I am told there is at preſent, more than a thouſand uncertificated bankrupts; and can it be ſeen with a ſingle eye towards the neceſſitous, I am convinced the generoſity of this country will prevent ſuch cruel depredations being made on the health and peace of its inhabitants, in the regulations or improvements which no doubt will be made when an inveſtigation of the paſt errors takes place.

However horrid the account may appear, reſpecting the arreſting perſons after their examination, it will ſeem moſt extraordinary to declare,

that the laws of this country are ſo defective, as to permit an action to be maintained in full force, which was entered preceding the ſtatute, and permitted to exiſt after all the examinations were paſſed by the bankrupt, under the full approbation of the commiſſioners, and under thoſe circumſtances, to have judgment ſigned ſixteen days after the ſurrender, merely to detain the perſon of the priſoner, who has in all reſpects conformed to the will of the commiſſioners as far as law requires. I confeſs this is a matter which never could have ſtruck me ſo forcibly, till I found myſelf the real ſufferer under that predicament; but I find it ſo ſingular, that a ſimilar inſtance has not met any inquiry I could make by my friends or ſelf; and notwithſtanding my plaintiffs were deſirous

of

of diſcharging me, could I obtain my liberty, as their attorney refuſed their granting my diſcharge, by ſaying it was a liquidation of the debt, which in my idea appears wholly an abſurdity; as where a legal ſurrender has been made, there can be no probability of obtaining any redreſs, except that of gratifying their evil inclinations, by keeping an unfortunate debtor in a ſituation where, if friends fail, the only proſpect muſt be that of forfeiting a miſerable life to the caprice of an unfeeling and mercileſs creditor.

Poignantly feeling the effects of ſuch oppreſſive meaſures, I have here enlarged more than was needful on a ſubject, though of much importance to many, yet is not ſufficiently within the compaſs of my pen or abilities to do that juſtice

which is ſo amply required on ſo copious a ſubject; but I truſt that in compaſſion to thoſe who may hereafter labour under ſuch misfortunes as mine, ſuch meaſures may be adopted, as may bar the oppreſſive and cruel creditor from ſatiating his voracious appetite on the unfortunate bankrupt, who being diveſted of his all, under the above arbitrary proceedings, fares much worſe than either a debtor, under a ſeparate action, or even a felon under the cenſure of his king and country.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XXIX.

## ON THE MARSHALSEA COURT.

OF all others, this certainly is the moſt odious court in being; where, to procurce a chance of recovering a debt from forty ſhillings to ten pounds value, the proceſs will ſoon amount to more than the debt, and notwithſtanding the precaution intended by the legiſlature to bar a perſon the horrors of a priſon under thoſe circumſtances, the only difference is the delay of time in the buſineſs; as an agravation to which the expence is double to what

it was under arreſt: this I can verify, by being prevailed upon to ſerve a man with a proceſs, whoſe debt was little more than ſix pounds, the expences the ſecond term amounted to near eight, which in courſe urged the man to extremities, and I was neceſſiated either to take the money by inſtalments, or ſuffer him to go to priſon; the firſt of which I preferred, having ever avoided the latter, as I before obſerved, from an idea that if no compromiſe could be made, the expences attending impriſonment muſt deprive, even a man of honeſt principles, the means of diſcharging his debts.

This was not certainly the end pointed out by preventing arreſts for debts under ten pounds, which has a very evil tendency in every reſpect, as through ignorance the inferior claſs

claſs of people, having no regard to paying debts within the above limitation: till, being ſurpriſed by the procedure, they are taken in execution, find their miſtake, and the debt on that account frequently exceeds the ability of either their friends or themſelves to pay; and as this happens to few but people whoſe connexions are equally in indigent circumſtances, the priſoner too often acquires diſeaſes incident to low living, and if not in that inſtant, yet ſoon after dies a ſacrifice to his miſapprehenſion, for ſuch it muſt be, or no man would ſurely ſuffer either the imputation or the puniſhment incurred by the neglect, which ſometimes under the deſcribed circumſtances I have pointed out, has been the cauſe of ſuch an impending evil.

The neceſſity of ſecuring the ſmall trader in his demands is certainly a ſacred matter, and deſerves the moſt ſerious attention, particularly as the debts contracted under that ſum are generally with thoſe whoſe ſituation in life makes it a matter of great delicacy to determine in what manner to decide, from the invaſion which diſhoneſt people will naturally make on his property, if ſome ſcourge is not held out to compel, where honeſty does not direct; but I ſincerely wiſh ſome more equitable mode of proceeding could be pointed out, ſuch as forfeiture of effects in a more direct line than that which in the end is exactly ſimilar, but which inſtead of obliging the debtor to work again for his living in an induſtrious way, to be of ſervice to the ſtate, leaves him a dead weight upon the community;

munity; the probability of ſpeedy puniſhment, or deprivation of property would frequently excite the diſhoneſt perſon to pay to the extent of his ability, and would urge the friends of the perſon whoſe misfortunes have been evident, to aſſiſt in time to accommodate matters to the ſatisfaction of all parties; when on the contrary, the tedious procedure of the law gives latitude for the chicanery to be practiſed which is ſought among the low ſect in that profeſſion, who, as I before noticed, being too numerous to be ſupported by honeſt employ, do not fail to ſtir up ſtrife and ſow diſſention among the peaceable ſubjects of this realm.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XXX.

## ON THE COURT OF CONSCIENCE, OR WHAT IS TERMED COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS.

THE uſe of the County Court proceedings are too evident to be diſputed, as far as they direct to the recovery of ſmall debts by inſtalment, particularly as the expence in the firſt inſtance is certainly made eaſy; but as in failure of payment, an execution and impriſonment without limitation follows, the conſequence ends equally bad with others; and I have

have known a man confined ſeveral months for a debt under twenty ſhillings and his fees, the latter of which, on the nigheſt calculation, amounts to ſeven ſhillings: the ſcene exhibited in this low way, is too bad to deſcribe, thoſe unfortunate people being limited to the miſerable pittance of one pennyworth of bread in a day, and cold water only to drink, in the Borough Compter I mean, as in other goals they have one halfpenny extra, it may eaſily be conceived what muſt be the event, as did not the humanity of the Thatched Houſe Society, and other feeling people interfere to occaſionally relieve ſuch objects, many muſt every year fall a ſacrifice to hunger, to want, and deſpair; and what makes this ſtill a greater misfortune, is, that the plantiffs, who

who are chiefly working people or ſmall chandlers, who let out lodgings, or ſupply with neceſſaries, are not in ability to mitigate as they otherwiſe would if in opulent circumſtances.

I was long ſince in hopes, owing to the attention paid by Mr. Howard to the ſtate of the various priſons of this kingdom, that the neceſſitous would ere now have had redreſs; but as at this time, ſucceeding two ſuch ſevere winters as never followed ſo rapidly, there is more attention wanting than heretofore; I truſt ſome laudable meaſures will be eſtabliſhed to the aſſiſtance of thoſe who may in ſucceeding times be obligated to fall under the puniſhments inflicted, where ability does not enable them to act with that degree of conſiſtency, either their own, or the

the ſituation of their needy plaintiffs may require.

Much praiſe is due to the care of Mr. Dornford, in getting the priſoners in the city priſons provided with rugs to guard againſt the inclemency of the ſeaſon, by keeping them warm in the nights, as before they had no covering allowed; 'tis a pity his humanity ſhould ſtop here, as could there be a means adopted of paying the fees for thoſe poor creatures, their debts might otherwiſe be liquidated; but they are on that account frequently detained, and the goaler not being enabled by any ſettled ſtipend to diſpenſe wholly with his demands, he has the mortification of ſeeing thoſe miſerable objects long before his eyes, without the means of redreſſing them. I have had much converſation with the

the keeper of the Borough Clink on this ſubject, who, I know has frequently, though to his own loſs, diſcharged many without receiving a penny on his own account, when he declared that was he not a ſheriff's officer, (by which means ſome contributions were made in behalf of the priſoners,) and had he not ſome particular friends of his own who occaſionally releaſed many, the taſk would be too arduous for his purſuit, as to ſee perhaps twenty or thirty poor objects deſtitute of every neceſſary of life, and confined in a ſingle room in the day, and the ſame at night, partaking of nothing but foul air, being frequently without fire to rarify it, none being allowed, the nauſeous effluvia iſſuing therefrom is too ſenſibly felt by all whoſe misfortunes or miſconduct occaſions them

them to enter the houſe of the maſter, (under arreſt) who being previouſly perhaps under complicated ills, ſtand little in need of ſuch addition to their calamity.

I hope, indeed, that ſome method may be taken both to relieve ſuch miſerable people themſelves, and likewiſe to eaſe the reſpective pariſhes to which they belong, as under the above deſcription the families of ſuch perſons muſt inevitably be burdenſome, whatever may be the event, and as from employing many working people through life, I have had in this particular ample experience, I hope, I may be excuſed pleading more forcibly in their defence than I might otherwiſe be authoriſed to do; as I have, I fear, been too prolix to meet the ideas of ſome of my readers who may not have had the latitude

people

people in ſuch concerns cannot avoid, but I depend on the liberality of mankind in general, to acquit me, and ſhall in courſe apologize no farther on this matter, which admits, I am perſuaded, of much more ſcope of reaſoning, than I am miſtreſs of in any ſenſe of the word.

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## CHAP. XXXI.

### ON THE POLICE OF THIS COUNTRY IN GENERAL.

THIS is ſo ample a field for animadverſion, that I ſcarcely know where to firſt fix my attention, as

as the enormities almoſt hourly committed in and about this metropolis, would fill many volumes to deſcribe, but none are productive of more harm than the negligence of youth, whom notwithſtanding the various recepticles aſſigned for them, are ſeen hourly parading the ſtreets, and committing depredations on the unwary, whoſe various occupations in life, oblige them to be expoſed to every attack, where vice and iniquity prevail over peace and good order.

By what error in particular this evil is encouraged 'tis hard to determine, but that idleneſs is the root of every bad ſuggeſtion, muſt ever be allowed, and that either from principle or prejudice, it is early grounded is too often ſeen by the diſſolute manners of the youth of both ſexes; when in the age of

in-

infancy, whether after the care taken by the pariſhes, of the children when they are placed out, a proper regard is not paid to the morals of the people, or from the objection generally made to taking pariſh children, by families of credit and reputation, or both, I am not able to determine, but from the method I adopted of taking the children of my poor neighbours, as apprentices, I think was ſuch a mode more generally to prevail, much miſchief might be prevented; as I can truly ſay, that with a proper attention to their morals we raiſed many, who have proved uſeful members of ſociety, and likewiſe in the manufactory they were trained to; and however depraved the manners may be in youth, much may be done; but I am ſorry to ſay, that under an idea of a lad being

being bound out by the liberality of a ſchool or pariſh houſe, he is ſcarcely regarded as a member of the community this, notwithſtanding any aſſertion to the contrary, I am well convinced is too frequently the caſe, and is the cauſe of much complaint, as conſequently ſhews and was there a different method of puniſhing the offending youth, who are indented, matters of that ſort might be better conducted; but there being a ſeparate apartment appropriated to ſleep, while they are permitted to aſſemble together in Bridewell in the day time, is not a ſufficient retirement, to bring them to reflection; as evil communications corrupt good manners, which was wiſely obſerved in the refined ſentiment of that man of experience (St. Paul) and

that

that is ſtill exemplified by the corruption, inſtead of correction, which takes place on their enlargement, and till there is poſitive reſtraint from their having any intercourſe one with the other, by being kept in ſeparate apartments, no good purpoſe can be obtained, either by maſter or ſervant; and to this particular I beg leave to recommend the moſt diligent attention which I well know from living in a neighbourhood, where there are many extenſive manufactories carried on is much needed, and in courſe daily complaints are ariſing reſpecting youth, ſo far as to make numbers of perſons ſo engaged, be fixed in a determination of not aſſiſting the poor, by taking their children off their hands, and unleſs ſome conſideration is entered on, to better conduct the

regula-

regulations required in ſuch caſes, the ſtreets will be daily more infeſted with robbers and pick-pockets, than has yet appeared, as after adding to their own vice, by ſelecting from others in the ſame predicament, the infection is generally too powerful for a tradeſman to contend with, and the culprit is either releaſed from his maſter by law, or otherwiſe by abſconding from his houſe, and not being ſought after, he embraces greedily the bait, which offers from the aſſociates he connected himſelf with, (when under a local puniſhment) and they both in conſequence, return to their former ſituation, with the addition of a pair of iron fetters.

I ſhould previous to this have noticed, the improper care taken by indigent parents of their riſing off-

ſpring, where they are not under the cognizance of a pariſh, as from the total neglect of their morals, and ſeeing no probable means of ſupport, great evil originates, as from what I have remarked in the preceding part of this chapter, to remedy which, I ſee but one method to be purſued, and that I think would extend even farther to remove nuiſances of that tendency, I mean that the officers of each pariſh ſhould by ſome means, come at the knowledge of each man's occupation in life, and if he is not willing to diſcloſe, ſome method ought to be taken to bring him to confeſſion; that if he has no employ, to point out ſomething to prevent his making ſuch depredations on the public, as muſt end in his own diſgrace, and the utter deſtruction of all legal bonds of ſociety.

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The intended regulation, relative to the diſtribution of *juſtice* to more proper perſons, will I hope give ſanction to ſuch ſteps being taken, as will enforce a ſimilar, though more ample caution, that we may not have the mortification of ſeeing exhibited ſuch melancholy ſpectacles, as have ſince the peace met our information. Such a diſplay of vice in early age as of late has been handed, I believe, was never recorded in the annals of hiſtory, during a long ſucceſſion of time; that occaſionally there have been many executions, is well known, but that every ſeſſion ſhould almoſt correſpond, is a fatal inſtance of depravity either of the manners, or neglect of the laws, both which being alike detrimental, I hope will be more ſcrupulouſly attended to in future, as I believe there has

not on the continent, or even in Europe, been a ſimilarity of fate to the inferior people within the moſt extended memory, if from the ſeverity of the laws in other countries, ſuch dire events are prevented, would it not be political to inflict that ſeverity on a few, that might deter the many from falling into reciprocal errors; ſurely it might be better if four out of five, by ſuch methods could eſcape untimely death, as at preſent there does not ſeem a ſufficient emphaſis on the ſentence delivered, or the execution of that ſentence, to deter the multitude who attend the tranſit of thoſe unfortunate people (whoſe errors have led them to undergo the terrors of the law) as far as death in the way it is finiſhed, but it being held ſo light,

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the moment the ſight is removed, ſo ſoon the remembrance is obliterated.

The idea of working being much more awful to thoſe of an indolent turn, (than the end of the law) would it not be much more to the advantage of all concerned, to aſſign for ſome particular laborious manufactory, thoſe hardened people, who being inured to combat all difficulties, both night and day, might be made extremely ſerviceable, where the apprehenſion of danger might deter the ſober and prudent part of mankind; ſuch things, I doubt not, might by ingenious people be planned, and there ſurely might be the ſame means uſed, to keep them to work in confinement, as felons, ſuppoſing they were not in too large parties, and were linked together in

pairs, ſome have propoſed the high roads, but as the military have ſhort pay, that privilege might aſſiſt them, and prevent their families being otherwiſe an incumbrance.

The ſcheme which was ſome years in force, under Mr. Tull in White Chapel Road, for employing ſuch obſtinate people as the maſters of workhouſes could not keep within bounds, might on an enlarged plan, be introduced as a remedy for ſome of the evils I have pointed out; and would government hold out the temptation to enterprizing people, of allowing the money which is expended in tranſporting felons, for a purpoſe of that ſort, admitting of a few capital convicts in each claſs, I am led to believe a much better purpoſe might be anſwered,

ed, than can be accompliſhed either by execution (except for murder and burglary) or baniſhment. To this it may be anſwered, there is not employ for the honeſt, how then for felons; but let thoſe of contracted ideas remember, that people who work hard, of what deſcription ſoever they may be, muſt wear out cloaths, and conſequently muſt promote our own manufactories, (as no others are worn by people of that ſtamp) and as they muſt likewiſe have a ſupport adequate to their labour, the conſumption of proviſions would be a conſideration worth notice; and as ſome regularity reſpecting their morals would certainly take place, there can remain no doubt, but ſome of thoſe who in one part may have loſt a proper ſenſe of their duty, might yet be reclaimed, and when

ſuch a pleaſing event takes place, a ſuitable encouragement might meet them, by reſtoring them to their families and deareſt connexions, (as during their penance to which I would recommend no limitation in terms, but as they conducted themſelves) no perſon under any pretence whatever, ſhould be admitted, or any correſpondence be carried on, but what paſſed through the hands and under the inſpection of the perſon appointed to the care of them; this I am led to think, if it was attended to under certain reſtrictions, might be ſerviceable, particularly if no releaſe was at any time to be admitted of, unleſs the amendment had exiſted ſome years, and on penalty of returning to the ſame place, on a ſimilar offence never more to be enlarged.

Whether

Whether the penitential houſe is on this plan, I am not able to ſay, but if on a better and more binding principle I ſhall be glad to hear, as the clamour againſt ſending convicts to the African coaſt ſeems great, and the employ at Woolwich has it ſeems, been too great an expence to be continued, and the permiting people to ſee and give the convicts money, has been very fatal, nor by what I could learn (for I never choſe to ſee them) have they ever laboured ſufficiently to conſtitute a puniſhment, where then could be the propriety of aſſigning ſuch moderation, where extremities is the only remedy that is likely to cure a deſperate diſeaſe, for ſuch is idleneſs, and from that originates nearly every evil that perplexes a ſtate, taking it ſuperficially, and nothing can eradicate it,

but the neceſſity of working to ſupport nature, hunger muſt be yielded to, and if no ſupport was offered till acquired by manual labour, it might by compulſion introduce a habit of induſtry, which would in time prevail over the licentious diſpoſitions of ſome, who in their abandoned ſtate, bid defiance to every honeſt ſenſation, but when the cooler moments of reflection take place by compulſive ſobriety, more may be done, than could by any other means be expected. Theory and practice when united, would in ſome caſes operate forcibly, and it muſt render much ſatisfaction to every perſon concerned in ſo laudable an undertaking, under a proſpect of ſucceſs, and as the want of regularity has in the firſt inſtance been the cauſe of miſconduct, the only probable

means

means of reformation, is to enforce what ſeems ſo neceſſary to the peace, and good order of ſociety.

Something ſimilar to the above, I believe is practiſed in Holland, where if a man once enters (if even ſtarving and naked) they eſteem ſuch an acquiſition to the ſtate, as he neither is ſuffered to eat or be cloathed, till his labour has procured him the means, and however we may deſpiſe the plans of our neighbours in that quarter, they certainly excel in that part of their police, as no exceſſes are committed by the inferior people there, in compariſon with thoſe of this country, each man being accountable for his actions, by the employ he is engaged in, as being known to the perſon who pays his earnings. The taxes in that country are kept high as a political maxim,

and conſequently the people muſt do much work to obtain needful ſupport, and in a republican government it may be diſpenſed with, but in this land of liberty deſpotiſm is the cry on every occaſion, and priviledge is ſaid to be barred whenever the ſtate wants aſſiſtance, but I am inclined to believe, that there are temporary evils under every government, but as many of thoſe are removed by induſtry being purſued, which as it mends the morals and promotes the good of every country where it preſides, is well deſerving encouragement, and nothing can give a keener edge to it, than the introduction of new manufactories, as under that idea the inclination is prompted to do more then when it is ſatiated with what may have met a diſappointment, which has been ſeen in ſeveral recent

recent inſtances, but I ſtill hope, there will be ſome left to induce the well diſpoſed to avoid being troubleſome, and if to ſuch ſome extra advantage could be pointed out, it would certainly anſwer to every perſon, who has many ſuch within his cognizance.

The many evils which ſucceed inebriety in the ſtreets, might be greatly prevented, was there ſuch perſons appointed as are proper to protect juſtice, and to look after the irregular proceedings of the midnight rabble, as by thoſe the depredations on perſon and property are made; to prevent which, if the military were employed to patrol the ſtreets (without marring the liberty of the ſubject) alternately, as they are people in the prime of life, a better defence in caſes of aſſault or burglary, might be

be made, as the age and infirmities of the worn out men who now attend as guardians of the night, are by the fatigues of the day too much exhauſted, to enable them to gain the real appellation of watchmen. I believe where an extra patrole has been appointed, it has been found ſalutary, and the expènce to each inhabitant has been ſo light, as not to be deemed a burden, wherever the charge has been made; it was expected, that long ſince ſuch a regulation would have been general, and on the concluſion of a peace, it would have been ſerviceable in a double capacity, firſt by employing ſome ſpare hands, and next by aiding towards better order, on the return of many deſperate people, who inured to hardſhip, and out of employ, too often ſeek their own deſtruction, in ſuch incon-

inconſiſtent and deſperate meaſures, which however diſagreeable they may ſhew themſelves in the cauſe, greedily embrace the event.

Whatever may be pointed out, as a ſpecific remedy againſt this crying evil, the minds of ſome are prone to iniquity, as not to yield to any perſuaſion when opportunity offers, as an inlet to vice, in which caſe there cannot be ſufficient caution againſt ſuch an impending evil, nor can too much ſeverity be uſed with the nocturnal diſturbers of the peaceable inhabitants of this trading city, as many have been the ills to individuals by ſuch bravadoes, who deaf to all intreaties, rob, plunder, and ill treat people of every deſcription, and to all the misfortune is great, but to a young tradeſman (whoſe property is perhaps chiefly contained

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in his ſhop or warehouſe) has this calamity been ſufficiently fatal to end in his deſtruction, and even to cauſe him to enter a priſon; ſurely under ſuch weighty conſiderations, ſome ſteps will ſpeedily be taken, to enable the people of this opulent ſpot to ſleep quiet, and unmoleſted, during the hours of repoſe, as that is a ſacred matter, and cannot if properly and ſeriouſly attended to, fail of meeting ſuch inveſtigation as may preſerve in future, that degree of reſpect to which this country is entitled, if due regulation was eſtabliſhed.

How far I may legally be permitted to make the following obſervation, I cannot aſcertain, but am led to believe it impolitic to ſuffer the examinations of offenders to be ſo public as at preſent, as it not only

only decoy numbers of people from their employ to occaſionally attend, but it likewiſe introduces to them frequently new ſpecies of fraud; on obſervation, which to a mind already fertile in the path of vice, is productive of miſchiefs, the tendency of which does not perhaps ſhew themſelves, till from one enlargement to another, on the ſame plan, the matter is grown too copious to be contracted till its dire effects end in the moſt pointed fatality to both the innocent and guilty perſons, who fall under the terror of the aggreſſed and aggreſſor.

Was there a certain number of magiſtrates properly diſpoſed in various parts of the ſuburbs of the metropolis, who ſhould derive their emolument from Government, and not receive fees for the adminiſtration

tion of juſtice; it might be the means of its being more equally diſtributed, and likewiſe would eſtabliſh a degree of conſequence and dignity that would awe the inferior people much to their duty, under an idea of their being accountable for their actions to the crown in matters of treſpaſs only, particularly if they were to be examined privately. The Rotation offices have been productive of ſome good, particularly as three opinions are united, and it certainly prevents the aſſembling of ſuch multitudes of working people as uſually entered the door of a ſpecific juſtice of the peace.

The lenity hitherto ſhewn to the receivers of ſtolen goods is productive of much more evil than is generally imagined; as were there not receptacles for the property, when the depre-

predations are made, the promptitude to ſteal would in courſe be much leſs, as was there not an immediate ſale, the prevarications on the culprit being cloſely preſſed, would frequently lead to a diſcovery of the property, and where it might be concealed; but the crucible obliterating every remembrance, the offender is too callous to acknowledge his guilt, as e're he is taken, the ſilver and other valuables are, through a chain of connexions very ſoon at market on the other ſide the water. Much has been already ſaid by more able people on this ſubject; but no mode being ſpecified, no alteration has taken place, nor does more than one method ſtrike on this important matter, which is that of regiſtering the inhabitants by their profeſſions, in addition to their name and place of abode in the pariſh books,

books, which, on refuſing to declare, ſome fine ſhould be levied; and as no honeſt perſon could wiſh to deny their occupation, no ſtigma could enſue from ſuch a declaration, and there would be a poſſibility of diſcovery in ſuch illegal proceedings, where any heſitation was made, ſuch ſuſpicions muſt ariſe as would ſoon point out who were likely to be the buyers of ſuch article as were unjuſtly obtained.

In anſwer to this it may be ſaid, lodgers are ſo frequently the inhabitants of houſes in all parts of the town, that no proper account of them could be regularly kept; I agree it would be attended with difficulty for a time; but as each perſon who rents a houſe, for his own ſecurity would wiſh ſome method to be taken in his behalf, if he is a man

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of upright principles, he certainly would wiſh to know as nearly as poſſible, whom he admits, and would not refuſe weekly or monthly rendering an account of his lodgers at any office for that purpoſe appointed, or to the beadle; there is not a doubt but this would in part ſucceed, in the whole it might not at firſt be expected; but when honeſt perſons by ſuch means are leſs liable to have their houſes robbed of bed-clothes, and their drawers broke open, they certainly would be glad to unite in the purſuit of ſuch a ſcheme as may aſſiſt in eſtabliſhing the permanency of their own property. How far this may be called arbitrary or deſpotic, I cannot ſay, but thoſe are not the principles I wiſh to recommend; but, that meaſures may be taken to put the police of this country on a more reſpectable foot-

footing, I believe is the ſincere wiſh of every peaceable inhabitant of this opulent ſpot, and I am perſuaded, that the united efforts of every perſon both in theory and practice, is requiſite to aſſiſt in ſo arduous a taſk, as the purſuit will be attended in the onſet with much difficulty; but that there are gentlemen who ſo earneſtly wiſh to render ſervice, as to take on them the active part of juſtice at leiſure hours, I ſincerely believe, (not to make themſelves burthenſome by too large a ſtipend) and that on a proper inveſtigation of this material object, ſomething will be done to enable thoſe in profeſſional occupations, and others, whoſe neceſſities call them late out in the evenings to go through the ſtreets and roads without danger of being either aſſaulted or robbed, and perhaps

haps both, by the nocturnal paraders of every part of the town and country, who bidding defiance at large to the laws, as they ſtand, muſt require the attention of the learned and juſt part of ſociety, to eſtabliſh order and regularity, by barring the means of vice triumphantly aſſailing over truth, equity and juſtice.

Robberies on the highway, are an equal terror to thoſe who are from neceſſity obligated to travel the roads within twenty or thirty miles round this large city, and though murders are leſs frequent than formerly, yet fear ſpreads its awful alarm where thoſe daring people are known more particularly to attend, as the precarious ſituation a perſon is in, where a piſtol is held to his mouth, (whatever reſolution they may poſſeſs) is better felt than deſcribed, and to

point out a more ſolid remedy than is at preſent in practice, is not within the ſcope of my abilities; but by ſome I have heard it recommended to ſolicit the uſe of the light horſe, as guards, to patrole the roads within a certain diſtance; but as vice is equally predominant, far from as near town, where the ſame people purſue it, I fear the effect would not be ſo amply felt as wiſhed, as notwithſtanding the number of travellers diminiſh as the diſtance increaſes, yet the proportionate number of robberies might exceed what they now do, as there would be leſs probability of detection, and thoſe who go thus far are generally poſſeſſed of more property in ſpecie for their accommodation, and in courſe the riſk is greater. In this predicament I know of no method of prevention, as

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inclination prevailing where circumſtances are deſperate; a few miles does not appear an object to thoſe who chuſe to purſue ſuch dangerous adventures. Much praiſe is due to a nobleman in the vicinity of Hounſlow-heath, for the determination he fixed when attacked by the diſturbers of the peace in that quarter; as notwithſtanding it may be ſaid by ſome to border on cruelty, yet by the ſacrifice of the few who made ſuch daring attempts, that place has been much leſs dangerous to travel ſince, and conſequently the lives of ſome, and the property of others have been much better protected; and was there more genuine courage diſplayed in general, attempts of that ſort would, I am perſuaded, be leſs frequent; and what would ſtill more eſſentially prevent, would be the

full employ of people in the trade and manufactories of this country; and had I not in various parts of this treatiſe ſo earneſtly recommended that to every perſons notice, I ſhould here have found a moſt ample field for diſcuſſion; but I truſt that the ſimilarity of vice to the generality of the lower claſs of people, will lead the obſervation home to thoſe who are appointed the guardians (under the ſupreme direction) of this populous and fertile country; the liberty of which being corrupted by licentiouſneſs, robs it of its genuine luſtre, and prevents the humane intentions of the generous and well diſpoſed to the purpoſe of encouraging vice and diſſipation.

The above obſervations are intended by the author to be handed on an extended ſcale, for the inſpection of

of thoſe whoſe ſole province it is to protect the wholeſome laws of this country.

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## CHAP. XXXIV.

### ON THE NECESSITY THERE APPEARS FOR A NEW CODE OF LAWS.

THE neceſſity that appears, (while the enormities I have been deſcribing are committed,) for a new code of laws, will not to a rational mind, admit of a diſpute, as thoſe at preſent in force, being inſtituted in a time of ignorance,

were too abſtruſe for the moſt intelligent mind in common occurrences; and the extreme refinement of the preſent day, not dictating the ſtudy of ſuch dry amuſement, the ſame ignorance (reſpecting the light which every man ought in his own ideas to encourage) prevails, and under that ſhadow of pretence, many egregious offences are committed, and ſuch as ſometimes either for want of property or ability, paſs without redreſs: under ſuch circumſtances, after the more needful aids to the ſtate are accompliſhed, I ſincerely hope ſome thought will be taken in this behalf, as while things remain in their preſent ſituation, reſpecting the laws of the country, evils will take place, which might on even a ſuperficial review, be rectified, but ſoon, reſpecting the whole

whole, it cannot be done; as to frame ſuch a copious work, where the lives and property of the whole nation is concerned, muſt take both time and conſideration, and to draw the line of mediocrity required between the contending parties the attention of experienced perſons of every profeſſion and deſcription will be wanting; reſpecting trade in the particular inſtances I have pointed out, I am convinced there are few people that would not prefer doing buſineſs methodically by law, was it more eaſy in time and expence, both being of equal value to people ſo ſituated.

After the variety of obſervations I have made from experimental caſes, I do not mean to obtrude on the public my opinion, where I have not the ſame ſanction; but as ſome

other things have reached me, which cannot paſs my notice, I think that if on the eſtabliſhment of a new code of laws, without introducing deſpotiſm, there could be latitude given to call in the ſuperfluous caſh, from the various public charities, the Orphan Funds of the City and Chancery, the extraordinary gifts to Corporations, (ſuch as the Bedford Corporation Charity, which at firſt was left a few hundred pounds, and is now likely to bring in ſome thouſands per annum,) public companies, extra legacies to churches, (where they do not ſupport the widows, orphans, and other poor in their diſtricts) the Trinity Houſe, which, with ſo large an income, ſuffers the Thames in ſome places to be ſcarcely navigable, and all other places of the ſame deſcription; as that without

out the additional burdens, which are now obliged to be laid on the public, would give great aid to the payment of the national debt, which now being literally ſpeaking, buried in oblivion, by being exhauſted in numberleſs feaſts and other ſpecies of luxury, is no advantage to the community, and was it appropriated to the above uſe, it might under ſuch circumſtances, (by reducing the prices of various articles, the taxes on houſes, and the real neceſſaries of life,) diffuſe its uſe through every vein of trade, and manufactory in this country; and by barring the impropriety of ſuch high living, would promote the health of the inhabitants, and contribute much to the circulation of that ſtagnated caſh, which now lays uſeleſs in the hands of ſuch perſons, who neither

render any emolument to themſelves, or to government. I cannot in this I hope be accuſed of partiality, as myſelf and family, have near fifty years paid our quota to government in the trade we were in, and in courſe eſteemed ourſelves uſeful members, both to the ſtate, and the community; and as I am only recommending that to others, (though in a different line) I yielded to myſelf, I think I may ſtand excuſed, more particularly as what I propoſe, can be no hurt to that ſociety, which at preſent can gather no benefit from ſuch immoveable treaſure.

CHAP.

# CHAP. XXXV.

## ON MORALITY.

THE contraſt between virtue and vice, eſtabliſhing the various paſſions to which human nature is ſubject, to regulate which for the good of mankind, a proper rectitude of manners guided by a ſyſtem of morality, is the only line to direct a proper abſtinence from each deluſive paſſion to which our frailty will lead, if not corrected by that ſacred reſtraint which will ever protect us from evil; if we ſolicit the ſupreme interference which ever will defend where virtue preſides, and to lay the foundation

foundation of a proper line of conduct in youth, an early attention ſhould be paid by people of every deſcription, which is not only recommended but put in force by the numerous ſubſcribers to the different charities in and about this metropolis, an amendment to which I propoſed in the chapter on that ſubject; and I cannot help thinking, but was ſuch a ſcheme once in agitation, it would, from its ſalutary effects, meet due encouragement; as, however ſtrange it may appear to many, I am of opinion, the manners of the inferior orders of the people ought more ſolidly to be attended to, than thoſe in a more exalted ſphere of life; to this I argue that example and precept operating differently on the different habits, too much adherence to the firſt cannot be had among the work-

working people, (or ſuch as at leaſt ought to be ſo,) as the latter has no affinity to the parents of children intended to exhibit in a laborious line. Sunday-ſchools, if properly ſupported, it is hoped, will in a great meaſure, aſſiſt the morals of the lower claſs of people, if ſufficiently encouraged, as far as reading and writing only, which will promote more induſtry than extra learning among that order of the community, for which thoſe inſtitutions are intended.

Some will aſſert, that without people of deſperate conduct and fortune, hard work would be avoided; but in that I wiſh to meet their obſervation, by noticing, that as ſobriety ſtrengthens the conſtitution, and braces the nerves, the ſame as exceſs debilitates the whole nervous ſyſtem, and renders us weak in youth, old in the

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prime of life, and loſt to every ſenſe of moral and religious duties, in the moſt enlightened age of chriſtianity. If I am to point out the origin of ſuch evils, equally with the means of preventing them, it muſt be acknowledged, that as a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, ſo corrupt parents ſeldom introduce children of moral ſentiments into the world; but as that proceeds in a great meaſure from the latitude given in this country, under the ſanction of liberty, to the neglect of thoſe moral duties which alone can order the unruly will of men, I wiſh to recommend the more due obſervation of the ſeventh day; firſt, by the maſters in trade and manufactories paying the people they employ in due time on Saturday to admit of their providing for the enſuing week, before

fore Sunday morning; as without that proviſion it is needleſs to oblige the ſhopkeeper to lock his doors, the poor being, if late detained, neceſſitated to appropriate that time to the providing needfully, which might be ſpent in a more proper manner, by partaking of thoſe religious duties which this country has ſo wiſely eſtabliſhed, as well for political regulations, as the earneſt wiſh every one (from the light of nature only) foſters of future happineſs. This is a matter truly eſſential, however lightly it may be treated, and what but few, if any, either of the moſt learned, or moſt abandoned, can or will preſume to deny; how then to account for the diſſipation of the former, or the profaneneſs of the latter, is a taſk almoſt too arduous to undertake, as from our patrons in a higher ſphere,

ſuch

ſuch leſſons ſhould be held forth, as to check vice, or to allure to virtue, (each as occaſion might offer,) and was that the preſent ſyſtem, no argument could be deduced to palliate the crimes of each claſs, in progreſſion, as the manners equally ſucceed in gradation, as learning and abilities give power, and as the regularity and order of the whole is arranged.

But how far the liquidation of vice may be admitted, between the contraſted ſituations of perſons under every advantage of education and fortune, to thoſe who labour under the want of both, and every other requiſite to the comfort and information required in this precarious ſtate of exiſtence, I am not able to determine; but if agreeable to the diſtribution of the talents pointed out to all, (who have had even common

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education) I fear the preponderation will be great, where much has been given, particularly as from Royal example, the oeconomy of man's fate, is handed under the moſt brilliant authority to both ſexes; but I am at the ſame time ſorry to obſerve, that under the legiſlative permiſſion, our roads on Sunday's are nearly as much crowded with long ſtages from diſtant places, and the concourſe of people of every deſcription, in the environs of this city, is manyfold more than any other day in the week.

That many whoſe buſineſs confines them on the working days, do not ſtand in need of refreſhment in pure air, I preſume not to deny, but that licences ſhould be granted to ſo many public houſes, round the town, (under the denomination of

tea

tea houſes,) is an infringement on the laws of the country, and has a tendency which was never meant when (tea houſes only) were introduced, as that was the original intention; 'tis much to be lamented, that the limitation had not there ſtopped, as by wine and punch, being under the ſame roof, exceſs intruding upon amuſement, luxury is conſtituted, and what was only intended as a recreation, becomes an attrocious vice; as the mechanic, under this ſanction, ſpends too great a proportion of his weekly earnings, either to ſupport well his needy family, by remitting that part of prudent oeconomy, or to render ſervice to his fellow ſubjects, by ſpending that money in extravagance, which would otherwiſe be circulating among the manufacturers of this country;

country; and added to this when reflection takes place, altercations enſue, which perhaps derange his domeſtic felicity (to an extreme) by depriving his family of ſuitable cloathing, his children of needful learning, and his legal creditors of their payments.

In this train of inconſiſtencies, does vice make haſty ſtrides, where the innate principles of the man give way, and the miſapplication of liberty as an inlet to licentiouſneſs, perverts the whole ſyſtem of the human frame; when on reaſon occaſionally taking place, a man reconciles a vicious habit, by reflecting on the neglect (ſhewn by thoſe in a more ample ſituation) of the more eſſential duties in life. Thus does evil palliate its deformities, under the ſanction of example, (but there are many

many exceptions in this caſe) how far more then would the reverſe of ſuch conduct be illuſtrated, by enforcing to inferiors that in practice, which in theory cannot be expected to prevail. Was hoſpitality, in country villages to preſide as formerly, when the gentlemen diſplayed their generoſity, by ſpending the produce of their eſtates on their reſident abode, the peaſants would find employ on their native ſoil, and there reaping the fruits of their induſtry, by a peaceful enjoyment on homely fare, they would find no inducement to face the metropolis, on the preſſing occaſion of ſatisfying the wants of nature, which not finding ſufficiently ſupplied by honeſt endeavours, ſuch means are purſued as muſt end in the diſaſterous fate I have

have ſpecifically noticed, in the preceeding part of my obſervations.

Whatever allegations I may have ſubjected myſelf to, in the foregoing treatiſe, I am fully peſuaded there is ſtill much improvement to be made, and as the whole has been indiſcriminate, I have but little to apologize for in the ſequel; the cauſe and event appearing every day too viſible to admit of diſpute. I fear while there are ſo many inſtances of depravity in the age, as to urge ſuch frequent executions, there will need ſome great reformation to re-eſtabliſh the reputation of this country, among the inferior order of people, and little hope of that remains, while thoſe ſpectacles are permited to be publicly exhibited; as notwithſtanding the prudent alteration lately made, there is a temptation

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for the aſſemblage of ſuch people, as are prone to idleneſs and vice, and inſtead of receiving that cheque, which is intended to be levelled againſt that enormity, they conclude the day in concerting ſome ſcheme, to introduce them to the ſame fate; and 'tis frequently found, that while the awful ſcene is before them, they commit a crime, which intitles them to the preface of the tragic performance they are immediate ſpectators of. The end of the law might equally be accompliſhed in the preſs yard, or in any place within the walls of a priſon, as to cauſe, by the collecting ſo many people together, the iniquity which enſues after ſuch a henious ſight, (for ſuch to a perſon of ſenſibility it muſt be) and as the effect it was intended to promote, ceaſes in its operations; I

hope

hope hereafter, it will be farther conſidered, by ſuch whoſe province it is to determine on ſo eſſential a matter to the community; as on inveſtigation it will be found to be fully deficient in the original purpoſe.

Leſt I ſhould be ſtigmatiſed for the very fault I deſpiſe, in being too prolix, I ſhall no longer animadvert on the vices of the preſent day, but ſincerely hope that the operations of the ſtate, will, after a time, provide ſome means to eſtabliſh a reciprocity of manners, correſponding with the refinement of the age, where humanity, hoſpitality, generoſity, and morality, may equally preſide triumphant among all deſcriptions of people, in this populous country, agreeable to the different ſituations and circumſtances of each claſs; that vice,

vice, profaneſs, and immorality, may be baniſhed, that its trade and manufactories may introduce plenty, in every department; that from a diminution of the national debt, the burdens of the people may daily decreaſe, and that from a ſteady adherence to virtue and regularity, thoſe who once thought themſelves happy, under the ſhadow of the wing of this crown, may, by the pious example of the real friends to this government, be again allured to that repoſe, they once ſo peaceably enjoyed, under the fruitious hope of a permanent ſecurity.

By ſuch means thoſe ſeditions which have been illegally ſown by the enemies of the ſtate, will be eradicated, and the ſunſhine of proſperity will again diſplay its genial warmth, on the natural genius of this

this kingdom; which however it may be diſmayed by occaſional broils, will ever ſhew a propenſity to mercy, encourage ingenuity, and if unanimity ſtill prevails among its rulers, may bid defiance to all the powers of Europe, the courage and intrepidity of its warlike inhabitants, ever preferring danger in defence, to the puſilanimous ideas of corruption and cowardice.

That ſuch may ever remain the principles of a people bleſſed with whatever nature can beſtow, and followed with the proſpect of what is dear to every nation under heaven, where induſtry will ſucceed to idleneſs, virtue to vice, barbarity to humanity, and that the example we ſo proudly boaſt of, a mild government, may incite in the whole race of Britons that deſire of peace, and

that emulation to glory, which alone is poſſeſt by the brave and good, muſt be the moſt ardent wiſh of every man, whoſe breaſt glows with the virtue of the genuine character of a Britiſh born ſubject.

FINIS.

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